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THE LIBRARY
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM OCT 18 1947

CROP REPORT - - - - MAY 1st, 1946
- - - - -

SURFACE
MOISTURE:

Deficient in many areas. Warm weather drying out top soil and showers not of sufficient volume and frequency to provide ideal conditions.

SUB-SOIL
MOISTURE:

Sub-soil moisture, especially in the area west of the Missouri River and a line from Sioux City north to the Canadian Border, is not nearly as good as last year. The comparatively dry fall and winter accounts for this. To date, spring rains have been sufficiently frequent and heavy to keep the top soil in fair condition. Crops in this area will be more dependent upon seasonal rainfall this year than was the case in 1945.

SPRING
GRAINS:

Oats and other spring grains were seeded early and are up to a splendid start. Clover and other grasses seeded in oats give evidence of making a good stand.

CORN:

Planting for corn is practically completed in most major areas. It has been many years since the ground was so near ready at the usual planting time.

WHEAT:

Winter wheat, especially in Nebraska and South Dakota will need considerable moisture during the next sixty days. In Kansas, the winter wheat crop is in excellent condition in virtually all areas and is jointing in all sections of the state.

FEED
GRAINS:

Reserves of feed grains are short in our major livestock producing, dairy and poultry producing areas.

SHEEP:

Farmers are using certified seed of improved and highly adaptable varieties to the greatest possible extent. Highly acceptable varieties of oats have been used in all of our territory.

Hybrid corn seed is being used almost exclusively.

GENERAL
OBSERVATIONS:

The spring has been favorable to farm work. As a result field operations are much further along than usual and far ahead of the past two years. This is the earliest spring in many years.

Possibly too much nice weather and not enough rain.

The 1946 crops are very much dependent on an abundance of rain during the next three months.

Considerable confusion in minds of livestock and poultry producers and feeders regarding uncertainties of feed grain supply and policies affecting their business.

H J GRAMLICH
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

CROP REPORT - - - - - JUNE, 1946

THE
JUN 18 1947

WEATHER

CONDITIONS:

May was a cool, backward month; just the opposite of April, which was unusually warm and dry. Freezes during the period May 11th to 13th did considerable damage. Temperatures in the lower twenties were experienced in most of our territory

SURFACE

MOISTURE:

May brought general rains to most of our territory. This was especially true in Illinois and Iowa. Practically all of the moisture soaked in; an unusual situation for May. Total rainfall below normal.

SUB-SOIL

MOISTURE:

Fair. May showers dampened the top soil but did very little toward increasing sub-soil reserve. We are still dependent upon June, July and August rainfall. Eastern Nebraska, during April and May, had only three inches of rain in contrast to eight inches in 1945, and a normal of five inches. The Dakotas fared similarly with the exception of the Black Hills territory where heavy rains were experienced in the forepart of May. Iowa and Illinois satisfactory.

RAINFALL:

Rainfall for the period April 1st to May 25th inclusive was as follows:

WISCONSIN	- - - - -	-3.32 Inches
ILLINOIS (Central and North)		5.70 Inches
MINNESOTA (Southern)	- - -	-3.97 Inches
NORTH DAKOTA (East)	- - -	-2.0 Inches
SOUTH DAKOTA (East)	- - -	-3.38 Inches
" " (West)	- - -	-6.12 Inches
NEBRASKA (East)	- - - - -	-3.31 Inches
" (West)	- - - - -	-3.27 Inches
IOWA (Northern)	- - - - -	-5.55 Inches
" (Southern)	- - - - -	-5.19 Inches

Most of this rain fell during the month of May.

CORN:

Planting of corn in all major producing areas practically completed. Iowa planted 4,600,000 acres week ending May 19th. Last year on June 2nd Nebraska reported only 67% of the corn planted and as late as June 16th only 85%. Similar conditions in all other states at that time due to excessive and continued rainfall. This year the fields are free from weeds and in splendid condition. Stands good. Some reports of maggot and beetle damage to the seed in Iowa. These pests are aided by cool weather, retarding germination of the seed. Prospects for the crop very favorable providing seasonal rainfall is satisfactory.

OATS AND
BARLEY

Off to an early start in April but checked somewhat during May. A favorable June could still result in a large crop.

WHEAT:

Winter wheat promising in most of our territory. Continued shortage of rain in South Platte area of Nebraska affecting crop adversely in Nuckolls, Seward and Fillmore counties. Spring wheat caught by frost and damaged to some extent where plants were above ground. Late plantings not set back appreciably.

JUNE, 1946

- SOY BEANS: Planting well under way. Early beans above ground. Stand favorable. There is some question regarding the total acreage which will be put to soy beans account increase of 25¢ per bushel on corn but no increase granted on beans.
- FLAX: Seriously injured by frost. Some fields replanted to other crops. Doubtful if acreage will come up to expectations.
- POTATOES: In Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska crop set back by cold weather but still possible to make a good showing. Satisfactory stands on early plantings. Watertown and Clark, South Dakota areas report favorable outlook. Central Wisconsin area satisfactory. Red River Valley plantings made following early May freezes.
- SUGAR BEETS: Spotted. Considerable replanting necessary. Acreage good.
- CANNING CROPS: Peas up to a good stand. Acreage large. Late plantings being made at this time. Sweet corn planting under way. Other canning crops outlook favorable.
- FRUITS: Throughout most of our territory fruits were advanced abnormally in April and the freezes of May 11th to 13th did considerable damage. The more northerly areas in Wisconsin and Michigan were not as far advanced and the damage, therefore, was light. Door County cherries apparently safe. Early settings of strawberries damaged. Should be satisfactory late crop. Blueberries in north woods area badly damaged.
- POULTRY: Birds doing well. Shortage of feeds threat to big commercial turkey and chicken producers. Farm flocks not seriously affected. Egg production holding up splendidly.
- LIVESTOCK: No serious outbreaks of disease reported. Most herds and flocks now on grass and doing well. Many of our large feed lots empty due to uncertainty in minds of operators re. future supplies of feed and opportunity of conducting profitable operation. May rains in our Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming range territory very favorable.
- PASTURES: Satisfactory growth in areas where sufficient rainfall. With warm weather should be abundant grazing through June.
- HAY: Exceptionally large acreage of alfalfa cut for dehydration. Platte Valley, Kearney to Gothenburg dehydration mills all in operation May 3rd. Crop comparatively light but producing wonderful quality dehydrated meal. New dehydration plants, Fremont to Norfolk, in operation by mid-May. Dry early spring checked abundant growth of hay crops and tonnage will be lighter than last year.

JUNE, 1946

LABOR: Mexican Nationals coming into areas where surplus harvesting help is needed. Some Jamaicans have been provided by the Government. Many communities short of local help. Local men drawing wages above farm levels. School children to play an important part. Returning veterans helping in many localities.

OFF LINE OBSERVATIONS

MONTANA: - - - - Very dry. Ranges in poor condition. Anticipate early movement of livestock.

KANSAS: - - - - Winter wheat in southern and western parts of the state damaged by prolonged drought.

WASHINGTON: - - Yakima and Wenatchee Valley fruit prospects favorable.

SOUTHERN

IDAHO: - - - - Lettuce and green pea deal very promising. First shipments June 1st. Tonnage of both to be 25% above 1945.

CALIFORNIA: - - Early potato crop exceedingly heavy. Thirty million bushel estimate compared to twenty two million bushel last year and ten million in pre-war years.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Field work up to date to a degree not equalled on June 1st in previous years.

In most areas low spots in fields dry and all bottom land planted. Crops off to a good start.

No floods prior to eight-inch rain Watertown, South Dakota area May 23rd and Mapleton, Iowa flood same day.

Crop prospects in the main favorable. Seasonal rains will determine total size of crop produced. A one-inch rain per week for the next ten weeks would produce ideal crop conditions. It will take an unusually well distributed rainfall during the next sixty days to bring up a crop which will compare favorably with those of the last four years.

Increases in the federal price of grain, as announced by the U S Department of Agriculture on May 9th should stimulate an all-out production of grain for local and foreign use. Some confusion resulting from announcement. Also, some lack of confidence as to what authorities may do in the future.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

CROP REPORT - - - - - JULY 1st, 1946

18 1947

WEATHER

CONDITIONS:

The first half of June was dry. Temperatures varied from below freezing early in the month to a high of 105 degrees (at Sioux City, Iowa) on June 16th. Accompanying hot winds carried a threat of serious drought damage.

On the 17th a break occurred. Temperatures dropped and soaking rains fell over our entire system. The picture was completely changed. During the past two weeks we have had frequent rains. Total moisture for the month has exceed four inches.

SURFACE

MOISTURE:

Good, as a result of heavy rains during the last two weeks. Excess run-off occurred in limited districts. This year we have had fewer flood areas than usual. Late May and early June cloudbursts usually bring two to six inches of rain in a comparatively few hours. These look good on the weather report; however, most of the water runs off and frequently more damage than good results.

SUBSOIL

MOISTURE:

Good in most parts of Illinois and in the major producing sections of Iowa. Greatly improved in South Dakota and Nebraska by heavy rains in recent weeks.

RAINFALL:

For the period April 1st to June 26th inclusive, rainfall as reported by the United States Weather Bureau was:

	APRIL 1st to JUNE 26th, 1946 (inches)	APRIL 1st to JULY 1st, 1945 (inches)	NORMAL (inches)	1946 PERCENT OF NORMAL
WISCONSIN	8.13	12.44	10.24	79.0%
ILLINOIS (No. & Cent)	10.58	14.01	11.03	96.0%
MINNESOTA (Southern)	7.99	10.85	10.03	80.0%
NO. DAKOTA (Eastern)	4.55	5.38	7.81	58.2%
SO. DAKOTA (Eastern)	6.80	9.00	9.35	72.7%
SO. DAKOTA (Western)	13.30	7.26	8.17	163.0%
NEBRASKA (Eastern)	8.97	14.64	11.06	81.0%
NEBRASKA (Western)	8.81	8.55	7.85	112.0%
IOWA (Northern)	8.98	15.25	11.53	78.0%

Below normal rainfall for April, May and June in all of our territory except Western South Dakota where 163% of normal has been received and Western Nebraska with 112%.

CORN:

Corn gives much promise. It is far ahead of last year. There are some weedy fields; however, clean ones predominate indicating that the farmer determined this year's crop prospects. Last year excess rain through June stalled cultivation and all fields were weedy.

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JULY 1st, 1946

CORN (Cont'd)

ILLINOIS: - Prospects very good. Splendid stand and off to a good start. Much will be laid by in next week.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA: Most fields very promising. Height ranges from one to two feet. Color good.

NEBRASKA: Prospects splendid. Fields clean. Stand good. Recent soaking rains have established reserve moisture.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Prospects very favorable. Unusually fine prospects Huron to Highmore.

IOWA: Crop well advanced. Considerable will be laid by in early July. Crop much further along than last year.

WISCONSIN: Fields clean. Stand good. Growing rapidly.

OATS: Prospects materially below a year ago. Oats hit harder than other grains by early May freezes. Dry weather stunted growth. Excess heat several days in mid-June damaged crop in Nebraska and South Dakota. Possibly ~~three-fourths~~ of last year's record crop. Prospects better in Iowa and Illinois than other states.

BARLEY: Developing rapidly. Straw short by heads well filled. Close to average crop.

WHEAT: Winter Wheat - early reports from southern Nebraska above expectations.

	ESTIMATED June 15th, 1946	ACTUAL 19 45	AVERAGE 1935-1944
ILLINOIS	21,532,000 Bu.	25,456,000 Bu.	31,643,000 Bu.
MICHIGAN	21,528,000	27,648,000	17,261,000
NEBRASKA	77,396,000	84,226,000	44,620,000
KANSAS	199,168,000	207,917,000	144,440,000

Spring Wheat - Injured by drought during May and June. Straw short. Not all heads filling.

	ESTIMATED JUNE 15, 1946	ACTUAL 19 45	AVERAGE 1935-1944
MINNESOTA	19,975,000 Bu.	18,794,000 Bu.	21,145,000 Bu.
NORTH DAKOTA	112,487,000 Bu.	161,888,000 Bu.	96,434,000 Bu.
SOUTH DAKOTA	35,987,000 Bu.	48,636,000 Bu.	25,224,000 Bu.

North Dakota spring wheat area still needs rain. Bert Groome of Langley, in northeastern North Dakota, with 700 acres of spring wheat on his farm, reported on June 19th, that this is the driest year of the 49 that he has farmed in the area.

In Minnesota prospects somewhat more favorable.

JULY 1st, 1946

- SOY BEANS: Outlook very favorable. Good stand. Fields clean and plants growing rapidly.
- FLAX: In bloom stage in Southern Minnesota and Northern Iowa. Outlook favorable. Some failure to recover from early May freeze.
- POTATOES: Developing very favorably. Most garden plants in bloom. Big plantings give promise of satisfactory yield. Early crop from other territories unusually heavy. California record loading for one day 2,043 carloads last week in May.
- SUGAR BEETS: Developing rapidly. Extreme northern areas some replanting necessary account early May freeze.
- CANNING CROPS: Acreage on our line 1.5% above last year. Pea canning has started at most plants on our line. In the rain, crop very good. Excess rain damage in Fairmount, Minnesota area. Cool May delayed early peas. Late crop will be ready before factories finish processing early one. Sweet corn and other crops progressing rapidly.
- FRUITS: June 15th estimate Wisconsin sour cherry crop 14,800 tons this year vs. 7,300 ton in 1945. Normal crop 10,143 ton. This year doubles last year and is above the long time average by approximately 50%. Door County is the heaviest producer. Berry prospects very good in Wisconsin and Minnesota.
- PASTURES: In splendid condition. Reaching their prime one month later than usual. Cool, backward spring delayed development of grass; however, rains during the past few weeks have resulted in grass being exceptionally good at the present time. In our range territory grass, likewise, is good. South Dakota, west of the Missouri River, is experiencing one of its finest seasons. A continuous supply of moisture has kept the grass developing. Lack of moisture in the Sand Hills of Nebraska early in the season, together with cool weather, delayed development. Prospects at present very satisfactory. Wyoming range area in good shape.
- HAY: First crop alfalfa light account May freezes. Second crop developing rapidly promises heavy tonnage. Red clover producing very heavy crop. Wild hay started late and lighter yield than last year anticipated.
- LIVESTOCK: Cattle on ranges in splendid condition. Many grass cattle sufficiently fat to ship. Dairy cows throughout the big milk producing areas, reaching peak of milk production at this time. Spring pig crop under way. Shortage of feed grains only limiting factor in rapid development of hogs. Sheep shearing well along. Much wool moving to market. No tendency, as yet, toward increasing sheep numbers from the low total prevailing at this time.

JULY 1st, 1946

POULTRY: Industry very unsettled. Shortage of feeds resulting in a very light demand for baby chicks toward end of season. Anticipated reduction in number of marketable poultry and in eggs during coming season.

LABOR: Local labor situation tight in all areas. In canning crop areas and other territory where heavy summer labor requirements industries operate, large numbers of Mexican Nationals, Texas Mexicans, Porto Ricans and Jamaicans, have been shipped in. Local labor consists almost entirely of high school students.

OFF LINE OBSERVATIONS

Montana wool crop estimated at 20,000,000 pounds.

Washington cherry crop movement estimated at 1,025 carloads.

Apricots from Washington to total approximately 1,400 carloads.

Kansas winter wheat a near record at 186,720,000 bushel.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Picture, as of July 1st, very bright.

May and early June dry with comparatively heavy downpour during last two weeks in June. Usually, the opposite is true with serious flood damage in late May and early June. Actual flood damage this year limited to comparatively few areas.

Corn is the bright spot in the present picture with unusually large acreage and splendid prospects for crop. Urgent needs of industry and feeders should be met.

Early June temperatures created doubt. Two spells of temperatures above 100 with considerable drying wind in the High Plains states could have been fore-runners of a hot, dry season.

July will be the critical month. The amount of rainfall and its distribution during the next 30 days will determine to a considerable extent this year's corn, soy beans and forage crops.

We will need considerable moisture.

A 120 mile inspection trip Pierre to Huron, S.D. on June 25th revealed small grain short-strawed but heads filling splendidly. Corn very promising, grass splendid and cattle fat.

Irrigated crops in South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska doing fine. Ample storage water for the season.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

CROP REPORT - - - AUGUST 1, 1946

18 1947

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

GENERAL:

The 1946 crop season is approaching the climax, throughout the Central states. Prospects are exceedingly good. There never was a better August 1st outlook for corn. It will, however, take more rain to make the record crop of corn and soy beans which appear to be in the offing.

Top soil in many regions is dry and plants are drawing on subsoil reserve. July was a hot month and, since the 10th, a dry one. Some localities experienced a few good showers around the 15th and 16th of July.

The U S Department of Agriculture, as of July 15th, estimates the national corn crop at 3,487,976,000 bushel compared with 3,018,410,000 bushel in 1945, and a total wheat crop of 1,132,075,000 bushel compared with 1,123,143,000 bushel in 1945. Both of these are record crops. The wheat crop is assured; however, the corn crop is still just a "near prospect".

RAINFALL:

For the period April 1st to July 27th inclusive, rainfall, as reported by the United States Weather Bureau was:

	<u>ACTUAL</u> APRIL 1st to JULY 27TH INCL. (Inches)	<u>NORMAL</u> APRIL 1st to AUGUST 1st (Inches)
WISCONSIN	10.86	13.79
ILLINOIS (Northern)	13.94	14.18
MINNESOTA (Southern)	12.22	13.28
NO. DAKOTA (Eastern)	7.64	10.56
SO. DAKOTA (Eastern)	10.21	12.14
SO. DAKOTA (Western)	14.89	9.83
NEBRASKA (Eastern)	11.80	14.69
NEBRASKA (Western)	10.53	10.33
IOWA (Northern)	12.46	15.21

From this table it is obvious that there is no big accumulated excess moisture in most sections.

STATE OBSERVATIONS:

IOWA:

Wonderful prospects throughout the state. The July 15th corn crop is estimated at 673,318,000 bushel, an average of 61 bushel per acre, compared with 508,106,000 bushel, an average of 46.5 bushel per acre in 1945. The 1946 crop would be the largest total crop ever produced in the state although not the highest yield per acre as in 1942 the average yield was 64 bushel. The crop is well advanced, largely in tassel and a tremendous yield will be experienced if several showers are received in the next few weeks.

AUGUST 1st, 1946

IOWA:(Continued)

July 1st estimate on oats in the state was 228,000,000 bushel. This would be 13,000,000 bushel over last year. The Government estimate is too high. The new Helmanisporium disease has seriously affected yield on many of the older varieties. 350 acres of the new Clinton oats, personally inspected on the Robinson farm July 24t near Marshalltown combining 90 bushel per acre. Reports from several other areas very good.

Soy bean acreage down 20% but yield per acre could be a record high. Fields clean and making very rapid growth.

Pastures best in years.

Hay 13% lighter than last year. Some pastures being mowed.

Fruit crop much heavier than last year.

NEBRASKA:

Winter Wheat crop harvested July 15th estimate 96,202,000 bushel. This double the ten year average and twelve million bushel more than anticipated July 1st. Summer fallow crop in western part of state splendid. 40 to 50 bushel yields reported in Chadron area.

July 15th corn estimate 283,436,000 bushel. This would be the third largest crop produced in the state.

Abundant rain in most of the southern half of the state during July. The northeastern districts need rain badly.

Fall plowing 25% completed.

SOUTH
DAKOTA:

State in splendid condition. Heavy rains since mid-June thoroughly soaked soil and resulted in wonderful development of corn during July. July 15th estimate of 138,915,000 bushel is 16,000,000 bushel above July 1st estimate/ August rains will be needed to finish the crop. 1945 crop yielded 118,668,000 bushel.

Spring wheat is estimated at 43,333,000 bushel compared with 48,636,000 bushel in 1945. A 100 acre field of Winter wheat near Winner yielded 45 bushel per acre.

Western half of the state wettest in years. Grass exceptional. Cattle fat. Grain crops yielding well.

Barley yielding 30 to 40 bushel per acre. Oats about the same. Effect of late spring freezes very noticeable on oats.

Outlook for irrigated crops on the Belle Fourche Project splendid. Beets especially promising.

No appreciable grasshopper infestation.

ILLINOIS:

At the turning point. Wonderful crop of corn and soy beans in the offing. Heavy showers during the next few weeks will guarantee this.

July 15th estimate on corn 54 bushel per acre or 488,376,000 bushel compared with 391,390,000 bushel in 1945.

Pastures dry. Top soil cracked.

Second crop clover light.

Canning peas in DeKalb-Rochelle-Sycamore area produced large crop. Sweet corn prospects good. Canning starting about August 10th.

AUGUST 1st, 1946

WISCONSIN: Need rain. Outlook good. Corn estimated July 15th at 114,525,000 bushel.
Very heavy crop of oats and barley.
Grass good up to this time. Pastures now short.
Pea crop proved to be very heavy. Other canning crops at satisfactory stage of development.
Door County cherries being harvested. Largest crop in history. Thirty million pounds.
Potatoes in commercial areas in bloom. Outlook favorable if rains received. Some growers irrigating.

MINNESOTA: Outlook very favorable.
Corn estimate, as of July 15th, 283,815,000 bushel compared with 217,248,000 bushel in 1945.
Spring wheat estimate 22,842,000 bushel compared with 18,794,000 bushel in 1945.
Oats, barley and flax yielding well.
Canning peas made record yield. Plainview area estimated to average 3,000 pounds per acre with some fields at 5,000 pounds.
Pastures and meadows good.

NORTH DAKOTA: July rains soaked areas previously dry.
Grain crop better than early estimates.
Spring wheat estimated on July 15th at 133,405,000 bushel. This is 28,000,000 bushel under last year's all-time record crop but well above the ten-year average of 84,362,000 bushel.
Red River Valley potatoes promise big yield. Late rains forcing crop. Acreage somewhat below last year.
Based on reports through July 23rd it is probable that all grain yields will be larger than estimates.

WYOMING: Irrigated crops well advanced. Heavy yield anticipated.
Range in splendid condition.
Livestock fat and early shipment looked for.

MICHIGAN: Upper Peninsula of the state experiencing good season.
June and July rains have advanced pastures and meadows satisfactorily.
Small grains very heavy.
Potato prospects good.

GENERAL

OBSERVATIONS: Everything is dependant on the weather at this writing. Rain-fall during August will determine the size of both the corn and soybean crops. Conditions are excellent for very large yields -- if we get the rain.

Combining grain concentrates the harvest and market rush into a few weeks. Under the old method threshing out of the shock started in July and stack threshing ended in November. This change is a big factor in causing car shortages.

AUGUST 1, 1946

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS(Continued)

If ground is dry, spoilage of grain piled on it is comparatively light.

1946 is proving to be an odd year. Crops have overcome early handicaps and yields, in most cases, are better than even the most optimistic prediction.

OFF LINE OBSERVATIONS:

The 225,000,000 bushel wheat crop in Kansas has brought the farmers of that state \$400,000,000.00.

The Wenatchee apple crop is estimated at 20% above that of 1945.

All fruits and vegetables in the Yakima Valley doing well. Peaches more than double last year. Potatoes up 10%. No change in apples.

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GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

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From: H. J. Gramlich,
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Chicago and North Western Railway System
Chicago, Illinois

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM CROP REPORT
As of August 15th, 1946

Failure of a general rain to occur in the main Corn Belt of the United States during the first two weeks in August resulted in a decrease of 54,618,000 bushel in the estimated corn crop; however, the August 15th estimate of 3,442,202,000 bushel is still a record crop for the United States.

Heavy rains since August 15th in the southern half of the Corn Belt should equalize the continued bad effects of prolonged drought in the more northern districts and produce a final crop not materially below the August 15th estimate.

The August 15th estimate for the six major corn producing states served by the Chicago and North Western Railway System, compared with the August 1st estimate, is shown below:

	<u>AUGUST 15th,</u> <u>(Estimate)</u>	<u>AUGUST 1st,</u> <u>(Estimate)</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>
IOWA	673,318,000 Bu.	673,318,000 Bu.	- - - - -
ILLINOIS	515,508,000 Bu.	497,420,000 Bu.	18,088,000 Inc.
MINNESOTA	267,120,000 Bu.	278,250,000 Bu.	11,130,000 Dec.
NEBRASKA	252,032,000 Bu.	283,536,000 Bu.	31,504,000 Dec.
SOUTH DAKOTA	134,946,000 Bu.	142,884,000 Bu.	7,938,000 Dec.
WISCONSIN	<u>109,435,000 Bu.</u>	<u>114,525,000 Bu.</u>	<u>5,090,000 Dec.</u>
T O T A L	1,952,359,000 Bu.	1,989,933,000 Bu.	37,574,000 Dec.
U.S. TOTAL	3,442,202,000 Bu.	3,496,820,000 Bu.	54,618,000 Dec.

The crop in these six states represents 56.7% of the nation's crop.

It will be noted that Illinois is the only state to show an increase. The estimate in this state is up 18,088,000 bushel. Iowa reports no change, while Nebraska shows a decrease of 31,504,000 bushel. Minnesota reports a decrease of 11,130,000 bushel, South Dakota a decrease of 7,938,000 bushel and Wisconsin a decrease of 5,090,000 bushel.

This huge corn crop certainly is a tribute to the vitality and vigor of hybrid corn. Without this, the prolonged drought would have cut into the crop much more seriously and it would have been impossible to have produced the record crop indicated.

In addition, the other factors which have favored this year's crop have been as follows:

- 1 - A favorable season in the spring for preparing the ground.
- 2 - Fields free from weeds at time of planting.
- 3 - Sufficient dry weather while the corn plants were small to properly cultivate and eradicate weeds.
- 4 - In most regions, no heavy ground-packing rains following last cultivation.

As indicative of the new wealth which this corn crop brings, last spring the farmers of Iowa used seed corn enough to have filled a freight train six miles long. The maturing crop will fill two freight trains, one with the engine in New York City and the caboose in San Francisco, supplemented by another with the engine in Washington, D.C. and the caboose in Des Moines, Iowa. These calculations are based on 1,600 bushel per car and 112 cars per mile.

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Chicago, Illinois

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OCT 18 1947

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM CROP REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1st, 1946

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

GENERAL

The area served by the Chicago and North Western Railway failed to receive a general rain during August. Local showers helped materially and some regions received storms of cloudburst proportion late in the month. This was especially true in central and southern Illinois.

Absence of hot winds during August proved to be a blessing. Row crops, especially corn, stood the dry weather and mid-month heat remarkably well. A few days of hot, scorching wind could have done much damage, considering the lack of top-soil moisture and limited sub-soil reserve.

Low temperatures during the past few days, with a reading of 38° at Escanaba, Michigan on the morning of August 29th, remind us that the growing season is nearing the end.

RAINFALL

The season's moisture distribution has been unique. It was comparatively dry until mid-June. From then until July 6th splendid "soakers" occurred over the entire territory. In the main from six to eight inches fell, with practically no floods. The top and sub-soil were thoroughly soaked. The rain came in time to fill out the heads on small grain crops and provided a reserve of moisture for corn and soy beans which has proven sufficient to mature quite good crops.

Of the states served by the Chicago and North Western, Iowa fared best in the way of moisture during late July and August. Good showers were received in practically all parts of the state, other than certain areas in the northwest corner. Very few floods occurred. Wonderful corn and soy bean crops are maturing in this state.

STATE OBSERVATIONS:IOWA

Crops in Iowa are splendid, other than in a very limited area in the northwest corner. A trip along the main line of the North Western, across the state from Clinton to Council Bluffs August 18th, failed to reveal any section in need of rain.

Corn is wonderful. Soy beans exceedingly heavy. Red clover, alfalfa and sweet corn seedings in grain fields well above the stubble and furnishing much feed. In the northwest corner most corn stood the dry weather very well other than that on thin ground or where planted late.

IOWA**(CONTINUED)**

The August 15th corn crop in Iowa estimated at 673,318,000 bushel, an all-time record high. Anticipated yield of 61 bushel per acre for the entire state. 1945 crop 508,106,000 bushel.

The soy bean crop in Iowa on August 1st estimated to total 32,021,000 bushel. 1945 crop 34,848,000 bushel but on a much larger acreage. Pods now filling well and state yield may exceed the original estimate.

NEBRASKA:

Absence of rain hurt corn in Nebraska more than in any other state. What looked to be an outstanding crop on August 1st was cut 31,504,000 bushel by 15th, and in some areas there has been a continued deterioration since then. The southeastern quarter of the state has fared best and through most of the season has received fairly liberal showers. A wonderful crop is in prospect in most of this area.

The northeastern quarter of the state which usually is the most dependable where mid-summer rainfall is concerned, with a resulting good corn crop, has been quite dry up to the past few days. Much of the corn in this area will be materially benefitted by recent rains and a good average crop should be produced. The state estimate as of August 15th calls for a crop of 252,032,000 bushel, compared with 258,000,000 bushel actually produced in 1945. The September 1st estimate could be 10% under the August 15th figure, or an additional cut of 25,203,000 bushel.

Pastures, in the main, are short, except where early August rain fell. Winter wheat, in the so-called "Pan Handle" section in the northwest part of the state, exceptionally heavy. Splendid along the Chicago and North Western line from Gordon west to the Wyoming line. Many fields yielding 40 bushel to the acre, and over.

The wild hay crop reduced approximately one-fifth compared with last year. Cold, dry spring largely responsible for this. Largest commercial wild hay producing section in the United States is located in the Elkhorn Valley along the North Western for a distance of 130 miles from Neligh to Wood Lake. The hay is of exceptionally fine quality this year, and cured without rain. Considerable of the alfalfa in eastern half of state dehydrated and shipped for use in protein-deficient regions in eastern states.

Sand Hills pasture scarcely up to average. Cattle in good condition.

**SOUTH
DAKOTA:**

South Dakota is coming through with another splendid year. Small grains well above average and corn showed up surprisingly well even though August drought quite prolonged.

Winter wheat in the western section of the state exceptionally good. One field near Belle Fourche thrashed August 15th yielded 62 bushel to the acre. Many fields yielding 40 bushel to the acre. Oats and barley very heavy in western half of state.

Corn prospects good in heavy producing counties in the eastern third of the state. Some evidence of burning in the central section. Exceptionally fine prospects in the southeastern corner of state.

Potato crop in the northeastern part of the state Watertown to Clark very good. Many fields of early spuds yielding 200 bushel to the acre around Watertown. Late potatoes may exceed this. Clark area not quite up to Watertown.

Exceptionally heavy grain crop Watertown west to Redfield. Wheat stored in many improvised structures including vacant school houses and homes, haylofts of horse barns, hurriedly constructed open-top bins, etc. Some wheat piled on ground in fields. Ground dry when piles made and there should be very little deterioration. The first light rain crusts over the top and turns later showers. More granary room needed in state. Modern harvesting methods make it possible for farmers to bring all crops to market at about the same time and it is impossible for local elevators, railroads and terminal elevators to handle immediately.

Crops in the Belle Fourche Valley of record proportion. Sugar beets on 8,200 acres estimated to yield 12 ton to the acre.

ILLINOIS:

Corn crop splendid with the exception of a limited area in the extreme north and northeast section of the state. Heavy rains across the central part of the state in early August assured crop. Two inch rain on August 18th from DeKalb west to the Mississippi River took care of an area which had been rather dry. Prospects for the crop in Illinois increased 18,088,000 bushel between August 1st and 15th. Some further improvement expected.

Soy beans tall, heavily podded and give evidence of big crop. August 1st estimate of 72,542,000 bushel could be increased from present indications.

ILLINOIS
(CONTINUED)

Exceptionally heavy rains in the territory east and south from St. Louis in the middle of the month created some flood damage but, in the main, greatly benefitted crops.

WISCONSIN:

Early August dry, followed by showers of generous proportions in parts of the central and southwestern sections. Still dry in the more northern part and in the southeast. Showers ranging from one-half to one inch on August 28th will help late crops. Sugar beets develop largely in September and will be much benefitted by these showers. Beet prospects fair in areas serving Green Bay, Wisconsin and Menominee, Michigan factories.

Corn holding its own well, other than on sandy soil. Much of this damaged and already cut for silage.

Pastures short and considerable feeding of silage and hay going on.

Few patches of Sudan grass noted during the month furnishing abundant August grazing for dairy cows and other stock. Might be well to have more acreage of this valuable crop.

Second crop hay short. Late canning crops need more rain to finish. Racine truck crop area unusually dry.

Potatoes, Antigo-Eagle River-Rhineland area hurt to some extent by lack of rain. August 1st indications had pointed to exceedingly high yield. Good average crop in prospect. Irrigated fields promise heavy yield.

MINNESOTA:

Most of the state still needs rain. Corn looking surprisingly well. Trip across the state from Winona through Mankato to Lake Benton on August 25th showed very little evidence of serious deterioration.

Pastures exceptionally dry in Waseca and Springfield areas; however, corn in those areas showed little evidence of firing. Size of ears and filling of kernels impaired. Crop estimate cut 11,130,000 bushel August 1st to 15th. Some further deterioration possible.

Soy beans not filling very well due to dry weather. Late cutting of alfalfa very light. Pastures short.

NORTH
DAKOTA:

Growing season rainfall lacked four inches. Small grains turned out surprisingly well. Largely made by late June rains. Pastures very dry.

Potatoes in Red River Valley hurt by lack of moisture. August 1st estimate 18,375,000 bushel vs. 23,660,000 bushel in 1945. Expect further reduction in yield.

WYOMING:

August dry. Small grains yielded well. Winter wheat crop 4,500,000 bushel, largest on record. Average yield 25 bushel per acre vs. 20 bushel per acre in 1945. Spring grains all yielded well.

Irrigated crops heavy. Need warmer weather to mature. Ample water in reservoirs.

Pastures quite dry. Cattle and sheep in good condition.

MICHIGAN:

Upper Peninsula received fair showers throughout August. Late crops fared much better than those in Wisconsin. Small grain splendid. Heavy yields of potatoes a certainty with previous records about to be broken.

Corn producing heavy tonnage of silage but will not mature. Pastures and new seedings good.

OFF LINE OBSERVATIONS:

Kansas very dry through July and August. Corn badly damaged and plowing for Winter wheat delayed.

Colorado dry land Winter wheat and other grains splendid. Irrigated crops all very heavy.

Pacific Northwest. Winter wheat in the Spokane Inland Empire area estimated at 82,798,000 bushel vs. 63,298,000 bushel in 1945. Peas 20% above last year. Most fruits comparable to last year.

Wenatchee-Okanogan area cherry shipments slightly under last year. Apple estimates 19,400 carloads vs. 16,200 in 1945. Peas 1,640 cars this year compared to 1,865 cars last year.

Southern Idaho potatoes splendid crop. All other irrigated crops give prospect of unusual high yields.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

On the whole, this has been a very fine crop year, however, one real "buster" in early August could have made 1948 a bumper year.

Now the danger of hot winds and extreme heat has passed, there is the possibility late crops may be caught by frost.

If early September should be wet and warm, corn, soy beans, sugar beets and late vegetables could do wonders.

Corn is approximately two weeks ahead of September 1st last year. This may be due to the fact that we had only one real hot week in 1948 and that was late in August.

H. J. [unclear]
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

OCT. 13 1947

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

400 W. Madison Street

CHICAGO 6,
ILLINOIS

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

This will be the final crop report for this season. We trust that you have found these reports of some value.

Your name will be retained on our mailing list and you will again receive these reports with the opening of the 1947 crop season.

H J GRAMLICH
General Agricultural Agent

From: H. J. Gramlich
General Agricultural Agent,
Chicago and North Western Ry. System,
Chicago, Illinois

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM CROP REPORT
OCTOBER 1st, 1946

GENERAL:

September has been a favorable month. Heavy rains early in the month over most of the central Corn Belt proved exceedingly beneficial. They soaked the dry soil, enabled corn, soy beans, potatoes and other late crops to develop more fully and revived pastures. Temperatures have, in the main, been high and favorable for maturing late crops.

The only major area which did not receive heavy rains were sections in southeastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois near Lake Michigan.

SEED BEDS:

Seed beds are in fine shape. Fall rains have softened clods and permitted early seeding of Winter wheat, rye, and grasses. Many fields are now off to a good start with a nice reserve of moisture to keep them coming.

FROST
DAMAGE:

On September 2nd a cold wave brought the first frost of the season. This entered the United States at approximately the borderline between North Dakota and Minnesota, then extended southeast across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, to a point in line with East Lansing and Flint.

Damage in the area affected varied a great deal. Most corn was killed; potatoes were killed in parts of the area. Since that date there has been very little frost of consequence and the major part of the Corn Belt has not been touched.

CORN:

Corn has matured satisfactorily in most primary areas. The bulk of it is beyond damage of frost. The warm, windy days experienced throughout September were ideal for maturing the crop. Silos have been filled with a high quality product.

September 1st corn estimate in Iowa calls for 673,000,000 bushel, an all-time record high. Most of this is matured and the crop presents a wonderful appearance.

Some corn contracted in Iowa on the basis of \$1.20 per bushel for Number Two corn delivered by October 15th. \$1.05 offered for Number Two corn delivered by November 15th and old corn still bringing \$1.80 per bushel.

SOY BEANS:

The crop is maturing. Leaves dropping in most areas. Yields exceptionally promising. One combine report, the first received, from Vermillion County, Illinois on September 16th indicated a field of early beans yielded 30 bushel per acre and a field of late variety on the same farm estimated to make 35 bushel

POTATOES:

A very good crop. Some yields of 500 bushel reported in north central Wisconsin. Red River Valley indicated yield down 25% from 1945 figure due to erratic distribution of rainfall during the growing season. Some fields in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan frozen on September 2nd. Yield affected in this area. Watertown-Clark area in South Dakota harvesting an exceptionally large crop. Splendid yield reported from the Riverton, Wyoming area. Digging progressed very rapidly the first half of September. Slowed up recently in some areas due to wet fields.

SUGAR BEETS:

Crop did exceedingly well during September, which is the normal month for beet roots to make biggest development. Reports from all irrigated areas very favorable. Crop in the Riverton Valley estimated at 12 ton per acre; Whitney, Nebraska region 13½ ton; Belle Fourche, S.D. 12 ton. Non-irrigated beets in Minnesota and northern Iowa making satisfactory development with ample moisture to finish. Beets in northeastern Illinois and eastern Wisconsin still hampered by lack of sufficient moisture. Estimate a 10 ton yield on acreage serving the Menominee Sugar Company plant at Green Bay. Digging is starting at this time.

PASTURES:

Late rains have revived pastures. Considerable silage and hay has been fed in major dairy districts of Wisconsin, Minnesota and northern Illinois. Total hay for winter feeding much lower than last year. Harvey Nelson, Racine County, Wisconsin dairyman reports his cattle already grazing on second growth hay in his meadows while last year he harvested 5,000 bales of second cut hay from a comparable acreage of meadow.

LIVESTOCK:

Most regular hog men in the Corn Belt planning to breed about the usual number of sows. They realize there may be too much corn and eventually a lower price for this grain; also, a strong demand for hogs. They realize, too, that \$16.00 per cwt. is a good hog price. Most of them know that hogs on the Chicago market did not average over \$8.00 per cwt. for any one year during the half century between the Civil War and 1910.

Cattle feeders uncertain regarding future prices but are taking chance. Fattening hogs, cattle and sheep is a necessary part of the economy in those areas where tremendous surpluses of corn are produced.

H J GRAMLICH
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

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From: Howard J Gramlich,
General Agricultural Agent,
Chicago and North Western Railway Sys.
Chicago, Illinois.

CHRISTMAS, 1946

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

We have been happy to supply you, during recent months, with our North Western Crop Report. Today, we are bringing to you a message which is a combination of Mother Nature and the Christmas Spirit. This little effort is dedicated to "The Green and The Gold", the two colors which best symbolize agriculture.

The green and the gold are worth talking about! They bring our new agricultural wealth to us. The green of the growing plant may be likened to the linemen of the football team, while the gold of the ripened crop represents the backfield carrying the ball to a touchdown. In both instances the same thing happens. The work is done by the first mentioned and the second gets most of the credit; yet, neither could succeed without the other.

Incidentally, have you noticed that green and gold are also the attractive colors of the North Western's "400" streamliners which represent the last word in rail pleasure and comfort?

In an exhibit case near my desk, as I write this greeting, is a wax-coated turnip. The seed which produced it was planted on the first of September in a field near Des Moines, Iowa. On November 18th, while at the Iowa Farm Bureau meetings in Des Moines, the half-pound turnip, produced from that seed, was purchased at the market. Since then it has rested among the corn, soy beans and other examples of agriculture's masterpieces.

In the meantime, what has this turnip done? Not content to be idle, leaf buds, with a tremendous heave comparable to that of a Notre Dame fullback, were lifting the heavy coating of wax from the top of the turnip and now a beautiful four-inch bouquet of green foliage surmounts the attractive purplish-topped vegetable. This, even though it now rests in a sixteenth floor office, 200 feet above the earth where, when we look out of the window, instead of green foliage we see the North Western Railway terminal into which, each day, 330 passenger trains enter and depart.

What this little turnip seed has done in three months needs no further amplification. It is so typical of Mother Nature at her daily work on the farms of America.

First, the seed of an improved variety goes into the well prepared, highly fertile soil. Then the sun and rain do their part; the green appears; the farmer cultivates and, presto, we have a crop.

Why shouldn't we boast a little about the wonderful accomplishments in agriculture, the most fascinating field of all human endeavor?

Gold, as applied to agriculture, means, of course, the ripened crop. We prefer to use corn as Exhibit A because it usually is a beautiful golden color. The kernel of corn which enters the soil in mid-May becomes a one-pound ear possessing 1,000 to 1,200 kernels in September. To plant 91,370,000 acres of corn last spring our American farmers used enough seed

From: H J Gramlich

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CHRISTMAS, 1946

to fill a freight train 64 miles long. Within four months they had produced a crop which would require a freight train 18,865 miles in length to transport.

Last year 100,000,000 bushel of corn, over three percent of the nation's crop, moved via the North Western Railway System. Naturally, we are interested in, and proud of, the farmers who produced it.

By the end of the year practically all corn will be husked. If some is left in the field no great harm will be done. Hybrid corn is strong of stalk and shank-ears do not fall off. On June 6th, 1946, a farmer was observed husking a field of 1945 flint corn near Chamberlain, S.D. The ears were in perfect condition.

Corn is a very versatile crop. There are myriads of industrial uses for it. Only recently, an attractive, silky necktie was seen which had been woven from threads manufactured from the protein of the corn kernel. Sugar, starch, syrup, mucilage, sizing and numerous other much-needed products come from either the golden or the white varieties of maize.

Truly, agriculture is the great creator of new wealth. The Michigan theological student who, in 1940, planted one cubic inch of wheat on a plot of soil 4 x 8 feet, has seen it expand into 2,660 acres and a crop of 100,000 bushel in 1946. I doubt if he realized that from this small beginning enough seed could be produced progressively to plant West Virginia in 1949, the United States in 1950 and every tillable acre of land in the world by 1953. Just think - all this in the short span of 13 years.

I also have before me a sugar beet. Last April it was a small seed about the size of a pinhead, but full of zip and "atomic" energy. When this little seed was planted in the warm, fertile soil it started to work. The result is a beet weighing two and one-half pounds. Within its walls are the "makings" of six ounces of refined sugar, almost a teacup full.

In a small bottle on my desk I have two and one-half ounces of sugar beet seed. Planted on a patch of ground 36 feet square it will produce 100 pounds of refined sugar. And still our women folks cannot get enough sugar to make the traditional, attractive Christmas cookies.

The beet growers have, however, harvested an 11,000,000 ton crop, 29% above last year and an average of 12.9 ton per acre. Thirty sacks of refined sugar per acre.

Last January while in one of the grain elevators in Marshall County, Iowa, I noted a beautiful soy bean plant hanging upside down on the wall. On this plant were 195 pods, most of which contained 3 beans. Conservatively, 500 beans from a single seed planted in late May.

Agriculture is unpredictable. The farmer takes his chances. The weather in 1946 was good to his soy bean crop. On 13% less acres he matured a slightly larger total crop than in 1945, and the quality is of the best.

CHRISTMAS, 1946

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I believe one of nature's most beautiful sights is a field of flax in bloom. Dainty blue flowers on pale green stalks, swaying in the breeze, extending out over the rolling land are bound to arouse one's sense of beauty. But flax has a more important part to play than to provide beauty. We need more flax in 1947. It does well in many states and we now know how to grow it with the minimum of competition from weeds.

The Minneapolis Board of Trade has set up a committee to protect flax seed supplies and make seed available at cost to all who will use it. This is a wonderful move. If we would paint the G.I.'s house we must grow the oil ourselves. Let's grow more flax. Three-quarters of a bushel of seed per acre can easily produce a crop of from twelve to fifteen bushel per acre, each of which gives promise of turning into the farmer's coffers \$5.00 and possibly 50% more.

The steaks, bacon, lamb chops and other choice cuts of meat which you are now enjoying were, a few months ago, long-legged, awkward, new-born animals. With the aid of grass and grain they have reached the prime stage through the guidance and care of the husbandman.

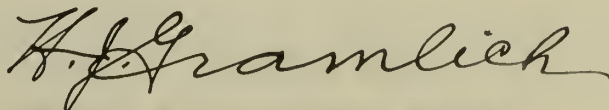
The dairy cow produces her weight in milk each month. The clucking hen and strutting turkey are all typical specimens of the animal kingdom which convert the products of the soil into palatable food for human consumption.

The grandest crop raised on the farms of America are the boys and girls. These keen-eyed, bright youngsters, working with Nature continually are early taught the fundamentals of life. The initiative necessary for caring for crops and livestock gives these youngsters an advantage and assures us of sound-thinking, broad-gauged men and women on the farms of tomorrow.

This is our last effort of 1946. If you want more statistics on the 1946 crops I would refer you to the Crop Reports of the United States Department of Agriculture. We couldn't express the Christmas spirit in this message and at the same time bore you with a lot of cold facts.

Merry Christmas, and wishing the best to you and yours for the coming year, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H. J. Gramlich". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

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From: H. J. GRAMLICH

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RY. SYSTEM
CHICAGO 6 ILLINOIS

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OCT 18 1947

April 1st,

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS 1947

Volume 2

Number 1

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

This is Crop Report Number 1 for the current season issued by the Agricultural Department of the Chicago and North Western Railway System. You will note we have given the report a name - i.e. - The Green and The Gold. We have chosen this for the reason that these two colors so aptly symbolize agriculture: the green of the growing plant and the gold of the ripening grain. We are proud to use these two colors for another reason - They are also symbolic of our own great fleet of "400" Streamliners. This report will be issued on the first of each month during the entire growing season and during the harvest period supplementary reports will be released from time to time.

This opening report covers a period of cool, damp, dark weather. We have had a great deal of such weather during the past two months, especially in March. Even so, a cool, wet, muddy March is preferable to a dry, dusty, windy one.

The failure of the top-soil to dry out has delayed early farm work. Last year, on March 25th, a 50 mile trip across one of the most prosperous sections of north central Iowa disclosed farmers at work, practically all of the oats seeded and much spring plowing already completed. The same trip, on March 26th this year, failed to indicate any evidence of spring field work, aside from a few fields coated with manure, an operation which probably had been performed before the frost was out of the ground. These conditions prevail in most of the nine states served by the Chicago and North Western Railway System - i.e. - Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Michigan, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

Moisture which has fallen during the past 30 days has had an opportunity to soak into the ground. The frost is out and the sub-soil is saturated. The top-soil is wet and needs a few dry, warm days to get in readiness for spring operations. The only exception to this is in the Pan Handle area of Western Nebraska and parts of western South Dakota where a lack of winter and spring moisture finds the top-soil dry but Winter wheat looking quite good due to an abundance of Fall moisture after the crop was seeded. Some blowing of the soil occurred in these areas during early February.

Supt. J. Wells of the Experiment Station at Chatham, Michigan, reported on March 25th that there were 20 inches of snow in the woods in the Upper Peninsula in contrast to a year ago when there was no snow left in that region on the same date. Somewhat the same condition prevails over parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Winter wheat and rye over most of our system looks good and will develop rapidly with warmer weather. High markets for wheat, stimulated to a considerable extent by foreign demand, is causing favoritism toward crop.

There is also a tendency to cut down corn acreage and increase oat acreage in parts of southern Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska, in order to have land available to sow to wheat this fall. Experiment station results have consistently shown a decrease of one bushel per acre of oats for every day's delay in planting beyond usual planting date.

Flax acreage will be about 70% greater than last year; soy bean acreage up 6% and sugar beets about 9.6% higher. These shifts due, in part, to anticipated and guaranteed high markets.

Reports on pigs farrowed during March not too favorable. Damp, dark weather responsible in part for many losses. High hog market over-stimulated and has resulted in the sale of many "piggy" sows. One Iowa packing plant reported 2100 unborn pigs in 2300 hogs killed in one day. On a basis of 8 pigs per sow and 50% of the kill being sows, this would indicate about one out of four gilts sold were "piggy". Some sows which lost litters on farms have been rebred for summer pigs. Prospects favorable for a fairly heavy pig crop this fall.

Reports from hatcheries indicate a strong demand for chickens. The turkey business, however, has gone into a tail-spin. Indications are the total will be down 35% from the record production of 41 million birds in 1946.

Old potatoes are moving to market in considerable volume. In addition to the demand for commercial stock, certified seed stock is in process of movement to planting areas. Heavy movement of old potatoes to Germany and other foreign countries in recent weeks. The winter potato crop from Texas and Florida of 960,000 bushel is only 40% of that produced in these two states last year. Early spring plantings of potatoes in the two states total 25,000 acres in contrast to 35,000 acres last year, or a decrease of approximately 30%. New crop potatoes from Kern County, California, are starting to move. Yield prospects favorable. Potato acreage over the United States contemplated only 88% of that in 1946.

Farmers puzzled over price outlook. Some are holding grain for higher prices. One farmer in central Wisconsin delivered wheat to the elevator on March 28th at \$2.35 per bushel following a day when \$2.55 had been paid. When he complained regarding this he was reminded by the elevator operator that he had sold wheat there in 1932 for 35¢ per bushel. Another farmer at the elevator was offered 84¢ per bushel for his oats. Hesitant to accept this offer he remarked that his neighbors had received 90¢ a few days' earlier. He was also reminded that following World War I when corn was selling at \$2.25 per bushel, oats sold at 50¢.

There is an uncertain feeling regarding market prices for both grain and livestock. Many farmers are adopting the policy of selling as commodities reach market stage. This would seem to be a good plan.

H. J. GRAMLICH
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT.

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From: H. J. GRAMLICH
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RY. SYSTEM
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Volume 2
Number 2
THE GREEN AND THE GOLD
Crop Report
May, 1947

WEATHER: April was an exceedingly cool, wet month over the entire area served by the Chicago and North Western Railway System. Excess moisture in Illinois, eastern Iowa, Minnesota and parts of other states, virtually paralyzed all field work. As much as 8 inches of rain has been reported during the first three weeks of April at a number of points in north central Illinois. There was a good deal of cloudy weather with temperatures below normal and very little opportunity for ground to dry out.

SPRING SMALL GRAINS: Small grain seeding has been seriously retarded in most areas. Only a small percentage of the oat acreage originally intended has been planted. A few fields were put in between showers in late March, and others at scattered intervals in April, the only exception to this being the area in south-eastern South Dakota, northeastern Nebraska and the north-western section of Iowa, where, at this writing, practically all oats and other spring grains are planted.

WINTER WHEAT: Winter wheat looks wonderful and has enough moisture to make a crop. Mid-April Government estimates set the Kansas crop at 247,401,000 bushel in comparison to the 216,756,000 bushel crop of 1946 which in itself was considered a record. Nebraska estimates call for 98,000,000 bushel, a record for that state and 8,000,000 bushel above the splendid 1946 crop. Conferences at Kansas City on April 28th with wheat growers from all parts of Kansas disclosed a great crop outlook, with only some unforeseen emergency as a halting factor between now and maturity. The crop in a 100 mile strip to the northeast of Kansas City looked wonderful on the 28th, the only exception being the low, wet spots.

NEW WHEAT ACRES: A considerable amount of virgin land has been plowed in parts of the dry land section of the Pacific Northwest, which has been worked down with the sage brush removed and will be put to wheat this fall. The \$3.00 wheat market of early spring has stimulated this, just as it did after World War I. Only time will tell the wisdom and justification of breaking out this grazing land in areas where annual rainfall ranges from 12 to 14 inches and where two years' moisture is necessary to produce one crop of wheat. The cost of the operation is high and should the wheat market recede within a year or two, a good many operators might be disappointed.

CORN AND SOY BEANS: A large acreage of sod is being plowed for corn. This can be worked when quite wet and farmers have taken advantage of the opportunity. Much fall plowing was done, and this land, with a minimum of work, is ready to be planted to corn or soy beans. Corn can be planted over a wide range of dates - more so than any other crop. A number of years ago the best corn produced at the University of Nebraska was planted June 22nd and 23rd. Earlier corn was badly damaged by the drought while the later corn benefitted from early August rains and matured into a fine crop. A few weeks of favorable weather should prepare most of the ground for corn and enable the bulk of it to be planted by May 20th. Corn planted up to the first of June should mature satisfactorily in most sections of the Corn Belt. Soy beans, normally planted late in May and early June, can be planted as late as the middle of June and still mature.

FLAX: One community in northwestern Iowa reports 3,000 acres of flax planted. This is in an area where no flax was grown last year. The crop has been substituted for oats and possibly some soy beans. Fortunately, flax can be planted late. This permits killing early weeds before seeding. New chemical sprays will be a boon this year.

PIG CROP: Reports on the spring pig crop are very discouraging. The weather has been bad and a new disease has resulted in the death of many pigs. Undoubtedly the total crop will be well below the first estimates.

CATTLE FOR FEEDING ON GRASS: Farmers continue to fatten cattle even though uncertain of what the future holds. An unusually heavy volume of cattle from the southwest has come into eastern South Dakota-Western Iowa-northeast Nebraska sections, the bulk of these yearlings weighing 600 pounds and selling to the farmer at \$21.00 CWT. This is a very large initial cost of about \$126.00 per head. Such cattle will be fed corn on grass and in the main marketed during the September to January period. Producers estimate that they can sell such cattle at \$4.00 to \$5.00 CWT. less than they paid without incurring serious losses. Illinois farmers in sections where excess moisture is a serious problem have purchased fewer cattle than usual during the spring months.

OBSERVATIONS: The principal disadvantage of excess moisture is the delay in spring seeding. This is a major factor and will prove serious in the great spring wheat belt as the normal seeding period is well over in the Minnesota-Dakotas section. Another disadvantage is the retarding of spring plowing for corn, soy beans and other crops.

On the other hand, one of the advantages of excess moisture is a thorough soaking of the sub-soil which assures abundant moisture for reserve during the hot, dry period of the summer.

Pastures will undoubtedly advance rapidly when the weather turns warmer.

OBSERVA-
TIONS.
(Cont'd)

The hay crop is well on the way to an assured heavy tonnage because of abundant soil moisture.

Alfalfa in the Missouri Valley east of Kansas City stood 12 inches on April 28th. Dehydrators are starting in Oklahoma within a few days/

With oats and other spring grains cut down by a wet planting season, it is entirely possible that the acreage of both corn and soy beans will be increased materially over the earlier estimate, as published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In the Pacific Northwest the season is two weeks earlier than normal. Prospects are very favorable for all kinds of crops, including wheat on dry land.

Generally speaking, wet, cool Aprils have been followed by favorable crop years. Dry, windy and dusty Aprils have frequently been forerunners of drought years. April, 1946 was of this type and many were afraid that a dry summer was ahead. However, the season proved to be a good one.

There is no need to get panicky about the delay in farm work to date. Mechanized farming gives an opportunity to offset many handicaps. The modern tractor, equipped with a headlight can do as much work in 24 hours as the old-style implements could do in that many days.

Should the backward season continue, two crops which might be considered for emergency late planting are Millet and the sorghums.

Millet is a splendid late crop which can be seeded even in July and mature fully. While this produces a small seed it can be ground and has proven equal to shelled corn as a feed for fattening livestock and can also be used very satisfactorily in poultry rations.

The sorghums are short-season, hot-weather crops. Either forage or grain sorghums can be planted well into June and be depended upon to mature. Should the planting season be late in June some of the earlier maturing varieties of sorghum should be used.

H. J. GRAMLICH

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

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GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RY. SYSTEM
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Volume 2

Number 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

AGRICULTURE
NOW A TWENTY
FOUR HOUR
INDUSTRY:

This report might open as a tribute to the tractors of America. They have done wonders during the past 30 days. On the days when the soil was dry enough to crack, they have accomplished wonders. Headlights at night best tell the story of our American tractor and tractor.

WEATHER



THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

-2-

CORN

Planting was retarded in most principal producing regions most May 20th, and at this writing sections where continued show soil to dry.

Corn planting is now is right. One cent expected to plant row, hill headl be c

SOY
BEANS:

The Lincoln soy bean, a variety developed a few years ago at the University of Illinois, is to be planted in most of the Illinois acreage devoted to this crop this year, and a large amount of the seed is being distributed in our territory in Iowa and Nebraska. This variety contains 1% more oil than other varieties and also outyields them.

PASTURES:

Pastures have made a very satisfactory start. In many areas livestock is already on the grass. Most dairy men are continuing to supplement pasture with ensilage.

IRRIGATION
WATER:

Irrigation water prospects are good. Reserves already in store, plus unmelted snow in the high mountains, practically assures an ample supply of irrigation water for all projects in the area we serve. The maximum snow in our territory is at Togawatee Pass in the Teton National Forest. This is part of the Wind River Drainage Basin which supplies water to our Riverton area. On April 1st there were 78 inches of snow in this section. This contained 28.8 inches of water.

The North Platte River which furnishes irrigation water at Casper and Douglas on our line, and at various projects further east in Nebraska along the Union Pacific is in excellent condition. There is a definite assurance that a good irrigation water supply is available for 1946. The reserve supply in the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne Rivers in Wyoming and South Dakota is satisfactory.

LABOR
SITUATION:

The farm labor situation is not too good. Thus far, with favorable weather, farmers have been able to do their seasonal spring work themselves. However, as the season advances, cultivating and harvesting operations will require and considerable additional labor will then be imperative. Last year war prisoners, Mexican Nationals, Porto Rican and Jamaican natives were brought into areas requiring a large amount of such harvesting and canning factory help; however, the supply of such labor this year is very limited and definite assurance as yet has not been made by the Government as to what it will be able to do.

From: H. J. GRAMLICH
 GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT
 CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RY. SYSTEM
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Volume 2
 Number 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

18 1947
 Crop Report

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
 June 1947

AGRICULTURE
 NOW A TWENTY
 FOUR HOUR
INDUSTRY:

This report might open as a tribute to the farm tractors of America. They have done a heroic job during the past 30 days. On the comparatively few days when the soil was dry enough to work they have accomplished wonders. Headlights shining in the fields at night best tell the story of these iron horses of our American farms. When farmers can plow, harrow, disc and even plant 24 hours a day, we can truly say that agriculture is an industry.

WEATHER:

May was a cool, damp month. Temperatures have ranged as much as five degrees below normal; however, we have escaped a disastrous freeze such as the one experienced on May 11th, 1946, when temperatures dropped to the low twenties in most of the territory served by the Chicago and North Western Railway System.

MOISTURE:

Generally speaking, moisture conditions over our territory are good. The sub-soil is soaked and the top soil ranges from damp to wet. Low spots have had too much moisture; however, a year ago we were short on rainfall and there was considerable complaint of a lack of surface moisture. Rains, to date, have been the gentle, soil-soaking kind, with very few floods.

RAINFALL:

For the period April 1st to May 26th inclusive, rainfall, as reported by the U.S. Weather Bureau, was:

		1947	1946
WISCONSIN		6.77 In.	3.32 In.
ILLINOIS	(Cent. and Nor)	7.65 In.	5.70 In.
MINNESOTA	(Southern)	5.98 In.	3.97 In.
NORTH DAKOTA	(Eastern)	3.18 In.	2.0 In.
SOUTH DAKOTA	(Eastern)	4.14 In.	3.38 In.
SOUTH DAKOTA	(Western)	2.80 In.	6.12 In.
NEBRASKA	(Eastern)	5.17 In.	3.31 In.
NEBRASKA	(Western)	2.82 In.	3.27 In.
IOWA	(Northern)	6.96 In.	5.55 In.
IOWA	(Southern)	7.69 In.	5.19 In.

As indicated by the above table, rainfall during the two months period this year exceeded last year at all points except western South Dakota and western Nebraska. Wisconsin has had double the rainfall of 1946, while several other areas have had 50% above last year. We are approaching the season when frequent showers are necessary and following the heavy moisture of April and May, the top soil will probably pack more than usual.

CORN

Planting was retarded in most areas; however, in the principal producing regions most of the crop was in by May 20th, and at this writing all is planted except in sections where continued showers have failed to allow top soil to dry.

Corn planting is now a "rapid-fire" job when the soil is right. One central Illinois farmer with 700 acres expected to plant his crop in five days. He had two four-row, hill drop planters, and his tractors were equipped with headlights. With favorable weather, most corn planting can be completed in one week's time.

During the week ending May 17th, 3,000,000 acres were planted in Iowa, and this with frequent interruptions due to showers. The same week last year Iowa farmers planted 4,600,000 acres. By May 17th, 34% of the Nebraska crop had been planted. Last year, on the same date, 58% of the corn was in the ground; however, in 1945 on June 2nd only 67% of the Nebraska crop had been planted and on June 16th there was still 15% to be planted. That year Nebraska produced a bumper crop.

On May 23rd practically one-half of the corn in Story County, Iowa territory, in the proximity of Nevada, Ames, and Boone was up to a nice start. Stand splendid. On the same date the territory along the 325 mile main line from Chicago to Ames, Iowa showed practically all corn fields either planted or the soil plowed and ready to plant.

In a south central Wisconsin inspection trip of 150 miles on May 26th, only one corn field noted above ground. Farmers throughout the area progressing corn planting very rapidly and should finish by June 1st.

Corn acreage being expanded in some areas to use land originally intended for oats and other spring grains. One central Iowa hybrid seed corn firm reports sale of 12,000 bushel of seed in the two week period following May 10th. This was entirely unanticipated. The company had planned on holding this seed for emergency next year. This sale is an evidence that farmers are buying additional seed to plant greater acreage than originally planned.

WINTER
WHEAT:

Winter wheat prospects continue to boom. The outlook for an all-time record crop holds true. The first new wheat reached markets during the past week from Texas fields. The crop further north is already "heading" and while the straw is somewhat shorter than usual, yield prospects are wonderful. It is possible that the Government's May 1st estimate of 1,025,789,000 bushels will be realized. Winter wheat in Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri River bottom land areas of western Iowa looks unusually promising.

SPRING
WHEAT:

Early sown Spring wheat making a very satisfactory start. Acreage out in some territories due to wet weather preventing seeding at usual time. Crop might reach 300,000,000 bushel and thus make a grand total wheat crop far in excess of any previous one.

OATS:

Early oats making satisfactory growth and stooling. Late seedings still unpredictable. Most oat plants produce two stalks per seed. Late seedings frequently do not stool as freely as early ones. Occasional patches of oats being planted as late as May 24th in northern Nebraska and South Dakota. On the same date the first car of new oats from Texas received on the market.

Acreage in the principal oat producing sections of the Corn Belt down about 15% from original intentions. Estimates on production for this year very hazardous at this time because of large volume of late seeding.

SOY

Acreage to be larger than originally planned.

BEANS:

Considerable part of land not planted to oats going to soy beans. Plantings rushed in some sections and beans in as early as corn due to anticipated high prices for crop. First plantings up to a nice start.

FLAX:

Acreage planted considerable below early expectations; however, still far above last year. Weather prevented maximum plantings. Early fields getting satisfactory start.

POTATOES:

Garden plantings six to twelve inches above ground. Field plantings made later but showing above ground. Acreage lower than last year. 1946-47 marketing problems complicated situation.

CANNING
CROPS:

Early plantings very seriously delayed. Practically no peas planted in April. Still planting in the Rochelle-DeKalb area on May 24th. Early plantings in the central Wisconsin territory in the proximity of Beaver Dam up nicely on May 22nd. Southeastern Minnesota peas planted later than usual. Operations finished around May 25th. Large acreage to go to sweet corn.

SUGAR
BEETS:

Throughout the west favorable planting conditions permitted operations ahead of last year. Labor situation favorable. Prospects good for a big crop.

PASTURES:

Slow in starting but making very satisfactory growth now.

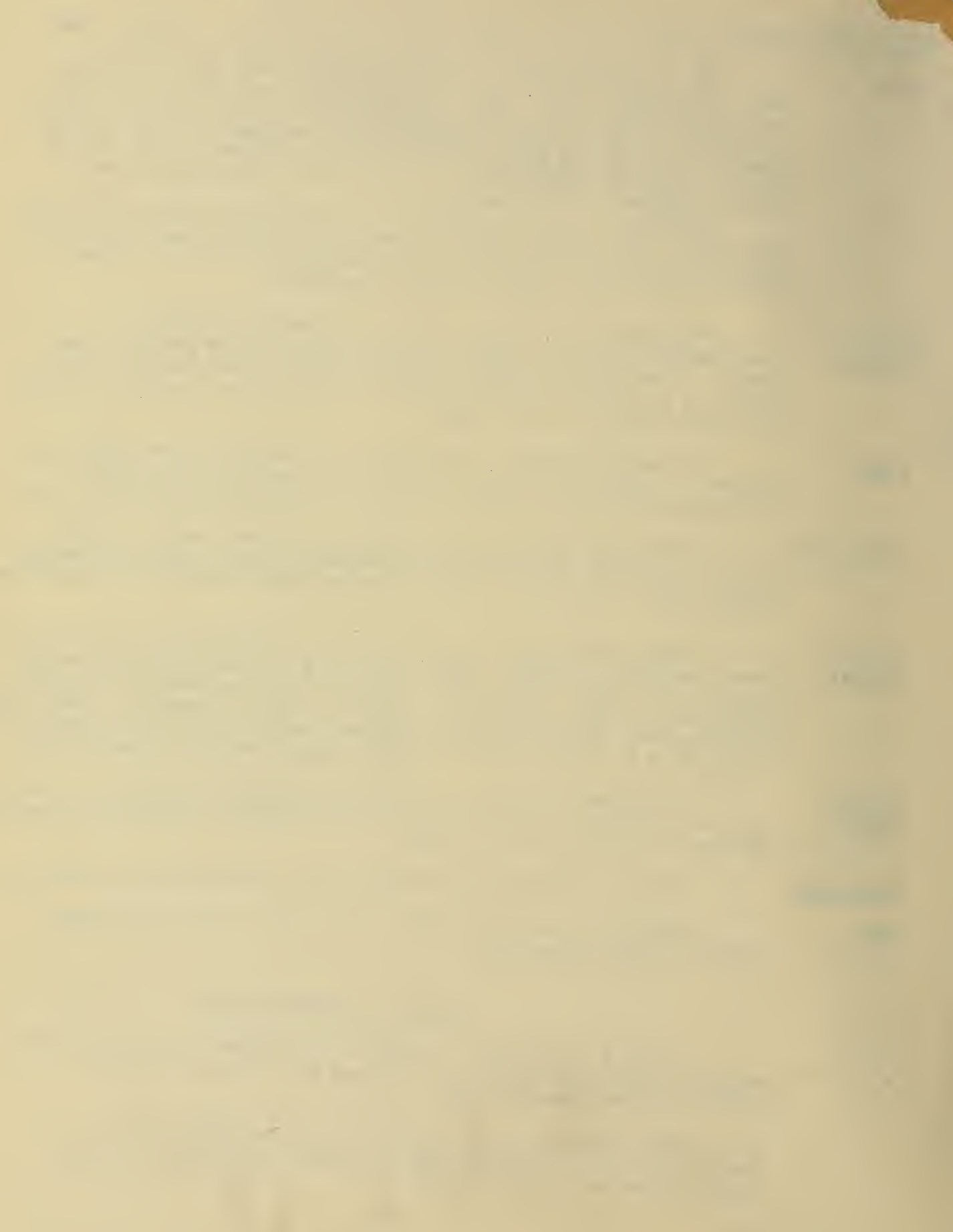
HAY:

Prospects very favorable. Nebraska surplus alfalfa sections very promising.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Country unusually beautiful this year due to abundant moisture and cool spring. Foliage and flowers timed perfectly for Memorial Day.

New oats arriving from Texas on May 24th is a reminder of the rapidity and sureness with which Nature replenishes our food stocks.



GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

Herds of beef steers grazing in Iowa fields remind us of the importance of the Corn Belt as a source of "around the calendar" beef.

Baby pig disease has taken a rather heavy toll in many areas; however, there were 5% more sows bred for spring litters and it is possible that the total spring pig crop will equal that of last year.

Occasional fields of shock corn in late May are a reminder of the value of the silo. Unused silage can be held over. In emergencies it is used during periods of short pastures. Fodder corn, on the other hand, becomes a "white elephant". Its feeding value reaches the zero point and its "carcass" has to be removed from the fields before they can be worked.

Each 10 mile northward represents one day later season.

Winter wheat ripens more rapidly. Harvest advances northward at the rate of 13 miles per day.

The large number of nomadic combines now available to promptly harvest wheat present a real marketing problem for the railroads. It is physically impossible and actually impractical to have enough cars available to move all of the grain as it is combined. The terminal elevators and facilities could not handle the wheat.

Corn planted last week in Iowa was 4,300,000 acres.

Snow fell at Sioux City, Iowa on May 28th. Trees were laden with a heavy blanket of snow and branches were snapping. A wintry scene met the eye. No serious damage to crops unless a freeze follows. Practically all corn in the area up and considerable cultivated.

CHEER UP! The outlook really is favorable even though the season is retarded. We may be better off than we were a year ago when moisture was deficient and we had experienced a severe freeze in mid-May.

H J GRAMLICH
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From: H. J. GRAMLICH,
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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RY. SYSTEM
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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JUL 18 1947

Volume 2
Number 4

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS Crop Report
July 1st, 1947

JUNE A
"JONAH"

June proved to be a very cool, wet month, good for grasses and grain but hard on corn. To date, 1947 has been a "freak" year.

The sight of horses pawing through a six-inch snow to get at grass on May 29th, near Sioux City, Iowa, is in direct contrast to the same date in the drought year of 1934 when temperatures as far north as St. Paul, Minnesota reached 108 degrees. This year's 22 degrees at Sioux City on May 29th forms a sharp contrast to the hot winds and 106 degrees temperature of June 16th, 1946 at that point.

Many have lost hope for a big crop this year. However, remember that first reports of crop damage following a spell of radical weather are almost always discounted materially when Mother Nature finishes repairing the damages and the crops are harvested.

MOISTURE:

June was a very wet month. Between May 26th and June 24th, southern Iowa received 12.54 inches of rain and northern Iowa 10 inches. For the three months period April, May and June, Iowa, this year, has had an average of 19 inches in contrast to 9 inches during the same period last year. Other C&NW states are also ahead of last year in rainfall with the exception of western parts of Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

Intermittant rains have delayed farm work and encouraged growth of weeds on cultivated land. In spite of this, farmers with their modern machinery have been able to make a surprising showing.

RAINFALL:

June rain was heavy over the entire system. The April 1st to June 24th tables, however, indicate but little excess other than in Iowa and eastern Nebraska.

	<u>1 9 4 7</u> May 26th to June 24th (Inches)	<u>1 9 4 7</u> April 1st to June 24th (Inches)	<u>NORMAL</u> April 1st to July 1st. (Inches)
WISCONSIN	4.08	10.85	10.24
ILLINOIS (Cent. & Nor.)	4.90	12.56	11.03
MINNESOTA (Sou.)	3.97	9.95	10.03
NO. DAKOTA (East.)	5.94	9.12	7.81
SO. DAKOTA (East.)	3.70	7.84	9.35
SO. DAKOTA (West.)	4.05	7.05	8.17
NEBRASKA (East.)	7.16	12.33	11.53
NEBRASKA (West.)	6.02	8.84	7.85
IOWA (Nor.)	9.88	16.84	11.53
IOWA (Sou.)	12.54	20.23	

CORN: Corn is a rugged crop. The hybrids which we are growing today might be looked upon as the "mules" of the plant kingdom. They have been subjected to all sorts of unfavorable conditions this year and in spite of this stand a chance of producing a good crop.

Aside from fields where floods ruined the stand, or rains washed out, the crop has a chance. It is two weeks behind its usual development at this date; however, favorable conditions during July can permit the corn to overcome this handicap and produce a good crop.

CORN - A HOT WEATHER PLANT With an abundance of moisture and a warm July we will see an exceedingly favorable development of the crop. Iowa, the leading corn state, reports 97% of the intended acreage planted as of June 15th. The week of June 15th to 22nd was wet and permitted practically no additional planting until toward the end. About 7% of the fields need replanting. Usually from 2% to 3% are replanted. Most of the necessary replanting is in the bottom lands.

The best corn in Iowa is in the 20 northwest counties where excess rains have missed. Fortunately, this is the big surplus corn-producing area of the state. At other points on the C&NW corn is backward; however, growing rapidly.

At planting time fields in western Nebraska, North and South Dakota were rather dry. Abundant rains since June 4th have changed this picture.

GROUND PREPARATION. This is a year when it has paid to thoroughly disk and harrow just ahead of the corn planter. In such fields the corn "got the jump" on weeds and made it possible for delayed cultivation to do a better job.

THE KNEE HIGH MYTH Many folks are still imbued with the old adage "Knee high by the 4th of July". This used to be considered imperative in corn production. With open-pollinated corn the height of the plant was a factor in determining the yield. Modern hybrids do not grow tall. On June 20th, in a 400 mile trip through central Iowa, only four fields were noted 12 inches or higher. In the main, the others noted were 4 to 6 inches high. By the 4th of July these fields should scale 12 to 16 inches.

WINTER WHEAT: The cool, wet season has been favorable to winter wheat. The freeze of May 29th did damage in some areas; however, indications are that most of this can be discounted. The heavy snow of June 12th in parts of western Nebraska bent some of the wheat over with resulting damage. Prospects for the crop on the vast table-land areas in the North Platte-Ogallalla section were wonderful when inspected on June 14th. Wonderful crop throughout the southwest with Kansas starting to cut its largest. Only one car new wheat received at Kansas City to June 25th. June 15th estimates, released by the Government on winter wheat, are as follows:

	JUNE 1st, 1947 (Estimate)	1 9 4 6 (Final)	TEN YEAR AVERAGE 1936-1945
KANSAS	277,761,000 Bu.	216,750,000 Bu.	158,441,000 Bu.
NEBRASKA	102,964,000	89,723,000	49,024,000
COLORADO	49,266,000	35,100,000	17,333,000
SOUTH DAKOTA	6,714,000	5,544,000	1,910,000

- RYE This has been a fair season for rye. The acreage is not too extensive; however, prospects are good for a big yield. Rye, like hybrid corn, is a "glutton for punishment". Many fields which were heavily pastured give promise of a good crop of grain.
- Cool, damp weather has been wonderful for all spring seeded grain crops. June has been similar to a normal April.
- SPRING WHEAT: Prospects are much better than amonth ago. About the right amount of moisture has been received in most of the heavy spring wheat sections to provide ideal development of the plants. This crop is in position to exceed previous estimates.
- BARLEY: Prospects for barley are mixed. Some early planted fields are doing splendidly. Considerable acreage put in late with stand not too good, and weed competition noticeable. In major Dakota and Minnesota producing sections crop coming fine.
- OATS: This cool-weather, moisture loving plant, has developed well. This is especially true of the one-third of the acreage which was put in early. Yields of some of these fields may equal the high yields of 1946. About one-third of the oat acreage was put in several weeks later than usual and these fields give promise of more than we expected earlier. The plants are healthy; color pretty fair and stooling has been reasonably satisfactory. The latest one-third of the oat acreage is anybody's guess. The stand is thin; color poor and on the yellow side and it will be a miracle if more than a fair yield is obtained. Should oats come to maturity without experiencing a spell of extreme heat they might fill well and produce a larger total crop than our most optimistic expect at this time. Unfortunately, late oats usually strike a few days of extreme heat at about the time they reach their most critical stage. When this happens we get a 26 to 30 pound test weight and a corresponding reduction in yield.
- FLAX: Acreage large. Much late planting. Primary producing areas in Minnesota and the Dakotas have gone in for this crop "in a big way". The stand is good and plants developing satisfactorily. Excess moisture has forced weed growth, always flax's greatest competitor. Chemical spraying for broad-leaved weeds being resorted to on a large scale.
- SOY BEANS: Early planted beans promising. Stand very good and growing rapidly. Fields surprisingly clean due to thorough manner in which farmers cleaned out first and second crops of weeds prior to planting of beans. Considerable acreage still to be planted. With early varieties the crop should mature. Total acreage large.
- CANNING CROPS Lateness in planting and cool June resulting in delayed harvest of peas. DeKalb-Rochelle area usually harvesting by June 16th. Expect to start today. Wisconsin areas delayed similarly. Cannners anticipate a problem in harvesting peas as rapidly as they reach proper stage because of lateness of early crops and anticipated rapid advancement of the later plantings.

**CANNING
CROPS
(Cont'd)**

Sweet corn planted about two weeks later than usual. Most fields kept clean ahead of plantings and as a result a good stand and splendid prospects for crop. Big canning companies with sufficient tractors and machinery to handle their operations rapidly have done a wonderful job in overcoming handicaps. Many fields of peas noted in full bloom in Manitowoc, Wisconsin area on Sunday, June 22nd and West Salem, Wisconsin June 24th.

POTATOES:

It is doubtful if the cool, wet weather has hurt potatoes in the major producing areas. The crop is somewhat backward but in good condition. Garden plantings in bloom by mid-June along the main line across Iowa and northern Illinois. Some patches should be ready for use by July 4th.

HAY:

All hay crops making big growth. Season favorable. Harvesting a serious problem to date. The first crop of alfalfa largely of poor quality other than where dehydrated promptly as cut.

PASTURES:

Cool, wet spring conducive to splendid pasture growth in most of our territory. Grass affected less unfavorably by excess water than cultivated crops. Many Wisconsin pastures short. Cool, wet weather, plus too many cattle for the acreage of grass responsible. Many short pastures noted in a 200 mile trip in east central Wisconsin on June 22nd.

**LIVE
STOCK:**

Range areas in splendid shape. Grass in Wyoming in early June best on record. Western part of the Dakotas rather dry up to the first week in June; however, since then generous rains have given grass a good start. Sand Hills area of Nebraska in splendid shape.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

It is well to remember that first reports of crop damage following a disaster or spell of unfavorable weather are almost always exaggerated. We should be prepared to discount these because Nature is very handy and quick to repair the damages once she has the opportunity.

Farmers are able to rehabilitate following floods and other disasters much more rapidly and efficiently than in the past, due to tractors and power machinery.

If you are "crop blue" because of the cool, wet season remember an Alaskan grows crops on a cake of ice in a 40 day season. Of course, the continuous daylight of mid-summer makes this possible.

The late season emphasizes the necessity for versatility in agriculture. Normally, a 115 day corn is satisfactory in much of the Corn Belt. This is the year when 90 day corn will come in handy. Scientists now have an 80 day corn and expect to have a 70 day variety ready for release next year.

Farmers have this year been especially desirous of producing a large crop. There is a tremendous demand for grain and animal products. Much new land has been broken out. On a 100 mile trip from Bismark to Jamestown, N.D. on June 9th thirty pieces of sod land broken out and put to crops, noted.

Spring pig crop for the United States is reported at 53,151,000 or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ % above last year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

Corn is tough. Literally, it has become known as the "mule" of the plant kingdom. Hybrid corn possesses a great deal of vitality. When one sees the handicaps to which corn has been subjected during the past month he is impressed with this characteristic and will be more impressed if and when a crop is finally produced.

Where land has been brought under modern soil conservation programs much of the surplus water which fell during June has been held by terraces.

Cool, damp seasons are good for grass, grain, peas and weeds. Hot weather favors such crops as corn, tomatoes, melons, Sudan grass and, we might include, tourists.

Sudan grass is probably the fastest growing of all crops. Seeded in early July it would be available for grazing within three to four weeks. A sample of this, seeded in a pot of soil in my office at noon, June 19th, was up one inch by noon of June 23rd.

Many acres of flooded lands will have to be replanted in early July. Ninety day corn can be used. If it is to go into a silo it would be well to plant Sudan grass with it. Buckwheat to be fed as ground fodder to live-stock is another possibility, as an emergency crop. Hog millet, or Proso, is a splendid short-season crop. It will mature in 60 days and when ground is equal to corn for fattening hogs. This plant has been grown for years in Colorado, western Nebraska, South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota.

During the last week of June the weather gave evidence of becoming more stable. Warm days did wonders for growing crops and enabled a large amount of planting to be done. It will take a few weeks to really know where we stand. Remember, miracles have occurred in the past; furthermore, while our Number One corn state, Iowa, has taken a terrific beating, large areas in other states, where moisture deficiency is usually a serious problem, have had just about the right amount of moisture. We sympathize with the inhabitants of flood zones; however, farmers in other areas will do their best to produce the food we need and minimize the tragedy.

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From: H J GRAMLICH
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 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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OCT 18 1947

Volume 2
 Number 6

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

Crop Report
 JULY 15TH, 1947

PROSPECTS
BRIGHTER:

Conditions over our territory have been almost ideal during recent weeks. The Dakotas, southern Minnesota, northwestern Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois escaped the excess rains which fell in most of Iowa and Nebraska during June. With July's warmth, crops have come forward in these areas with amazing speed. During the first week in July farmers were able to get into the corn and soybean fields. They have done a remarkable job at removing weeds.

Showers during the forepart of the second week delayed some operations; however, during the two-week period rainfall has been relatively light, a total of from one to two and one-half inches all told. This would seem to indicate that the period of too-abundant rainfall and resultant floods has terminated.

The sub-soil is in splendid shape; however, a good shower of about one-inch should fall each week to guarantee ideal moisture conditions.

CORN:

Corn is making wonderful growth, While it is still a week to 10 days behind, early plantings give promise of catching up if given a few weeks favorable weather. Farmers have cleaned the fields remarkably well. Replanted corn is up and off to a good start with no weed competition problems. This may only make feed; however, it will be useful in that capacity.

The splendid development of corn is due to four things:

1 - USE OF FERTILIZER AT TIME OF PLANTING:

This practice was very general throughout Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota Wisconsin and parts of Nebraska and the Dakotas this year. It peps up the early growth of the plant.

2 - TRACTORS:

Quick cultivation with tractors as soon as the soil was sufficiently dry, enabled farmers to get most of the weeds, especially in checked fields. The speed of the tractor permitted throwing dirt at the corn with sufficient power to cover the grass around the plants.

3 - HYBRID CORN:

This, in itself, is rapid growing. It has vitality.

4 - THE CORN BELT FARMER:

Farmers were willing to pitch in and work until the job was completed. They know nothing about, and care less, for the 40-hour week.

A prediction of 2,600,000,000 bushel, if fulfilled, would give us a crop equal to our ten-year average. It is entirely possible that this prediction will be increased 200,000,000 bushel. We can't go on forever beating former records.

- WHEAT: Prospects continue excellent for Winter wheat. Crop ripening in Nebraska. Three cars received at Omaha July 8th, the first of the season. In 1946 the first wheat received at that Market on June 20th. Indications are that July 1st Government predictions will be exceeded in many places.
- Spring wheat advancing rapidly. Prospects splendid. Good growth, strong straw, heads large and filling rapidly, across northern Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. The major producing areas of Minnesota and Dakota not quite so far along but equally promising. An estimated 350,000,000 bushel looks conservative.
- OATS: Conditions vary from excellent to poor. Large percentage of the early planted fields look to be as good as 1946. A 20-acre field of Clinton oats north of Dixon, Illinois, inspected on July 6th, stood 42 inches with exceedingly heavy straw, large heads, good stand and prospects for 80 to 90 bushel per acre. A field near DeKalb, Illinois, where only 3 pecks of seed per acre were used, not quite so tall and thick but looked good for 50 to 60 bushel, with heavy stand of spring seeded legumes up 12 inches.
- BARLEY: Crop heading and yield outlook good. Some fields lodged. Newer varieties of malting barley standing up splendidly.
- FLAX: Prospects splendid. Fields as far west and north as Mankato-New Ulm area in south central Minnesota noted in full bloom on June 29th.
- CANNING CROPS: Peas yielding well and quality splendid. Packing in areas tributary to Rochelle-DeKalb, Illinois, opened July 1st. Factories in other areas started about same time. All operations on seven-day week basis in an endeavor to save the early varieties which normally would have been ready for canning 10 days to two weeks earlier. Absence of extreme heat has slowed the maturing of the later varieties. Operators are hoping to have sufficient time to harvest these while at high quality stage. Sweet corn and other crops growing rapidly.
- HAY AND PASTURES: All grass crops heavy. Season ideal. Some rain damage to first cutting of alfalfa and clover. Brome-alfalfa mixtures providing wonderful pasture and look outstanding in all territories. This mixture used for grass ensilage with good results.
- SOY BEANS: Growing rapidly. Splendid stand. Fields clean. Acreage very large. Could be record crop. Some broadcast plantings since the first of the month ostensibly to be cut for hay.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Not infrequently, following excessively wet periods, the other extreme occurs. Our problem during the next six weeks may be one of wishing the clouds would bring rain.

July 4th was celebrated by farmers in their fields. It was a perfect day and ninety eight percent of the farmers were hard at work. In the northern one-third of Illinois enough hay was baled on that day to provide a column of bales 200 miles long. This hay went directly from windrow to baler, thence to barn. Most of it was put up in wonderful condition.

The use of fertilizer at the time of planting corn was widespread this year. A 20-acre field was planted near Sterling, Illinois on May 25th. On one-half of this, 150 pounds of fertilizer per acre was used; on the other half, none. On July 4th the fertilized corn stood 16 inches high at the crown; the unfertilized stood only 8 inches. The tip of the leaf on the fertilized grain reached 36 inches while the unfertilized reached only 20 inches. The farmer stated that, on basis of previous experience, the fertilized half would tassel 10 days ahead of the other.

First feeder steers received at the Sioux City market sold to the country at \$24.35. These thousand pound animals were from the western South Dakota range. The price was a record high.

Many loads of cash corn sold at the Chicago market July 7th at \$2.24 per bushel. This was 4¢ per pound, or \$80.00 a ton, also a record high. A load of white corn at Chicago sold for \$2.50 per bushel and at Omaha a load of Number One white corn sold for \$2.60 the same day. The market was influenced by uncertain outlook for total corn production. The scarcity of cash corn is a big factor also in this situation.

A hog farmer in Iowa with 200 spring pigs weighing approximately 120 pounds each commented that he had sufficient corn in the crib to "fatten these shotes". Yes, there will be food for us.

Recently, a string of over 1,000 head of spring lambs from the Sun Valley territory in Idaho were marketed. They weighed 102 pounds each and brought 25¢ per pound.

Stocks of corn on farms July 1st were 645,000,000 bushel. These exceeded July 1st, 1946 reserves by 191,000,000 bushel.

Government crop estimates released July 10th were based on July 1st conditions. There has been a very marked turn for the better in the interim.

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OCT 18 1947

Volume 2
Number 7

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

Crop Report
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AUGUST 1st, 1947

JULY GOOD
BUT RAIN
NEEDED FOR
AUGUST!

July has been an exceedingly favorable month. Conditions have been good for rapid development of plant growth and especially so for farmers to get their work done. The outlook is good in spite of all the pessimism and gloom which has prevailed during the past three months. Nature has proven to be a splendid healer of wounds.

In a way July was the opposite of June. In most places scarcely enough moisture was received to provide ideal growing conditions, although no acute shortage. Quite a contrast to the floods and excess rain of June. Normal July rainfall in our territory ranges from 3 to 4 inches. Few places have this year received more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

August starts with the top soil rather dry. From here on out rainfall will be the most important single factor. It takes precedence now. Corn is late and there will be no time for it to stand still waiting for rain. If August brings frequent showers there will probably be enough warm weather to mature most of the crop - certainly to bring it to a stage where it will make splendid feed and thus assure ample meat supplies, for another year.

A 90° temperature does the corn plant very little good unless there is ample moisture around the roots. Few people realize that it takes one-half barrel of water to produce an ear of corn which will shell one-half pound of kernels (an average size ear). Most of this water is used during the months of July and August, the major part in August.

CORN:

Corn is still from one week to ten days behind schedule; however, there can still be mature corn. Most corn is just ready to tassel. Later maturing strains require 50 days from this stage to maturity. The earlier maturing 80 to 100 day varieties, of which there is a heavy planting this year, can make a crop in 40 to 45 days after tasseling.

When we get excited about the danger of an early frost, let's remember that the average date of a killing frost in the main part of the Corn Belt comes after October 1st.

The Government's July 15th estimate calls for a crop of 2,771,000,000 bushels. This is based on an estimated average yield per acre of 32.9 bushels. Corn fields are hard to estimate this year. Wet spots are larger and flooded areas in river valleys more extensive. Offsetting these facts - seed germinated well and the stand was exceptionally good.

CORN
(Cont'd)

Upland areas will give a good account of themselves if they receive sufficient moisture and warmth.

In our July 15th report we stated that the July 1st crop estimate could be "upped" by 200,000,000 bushel on basis of conditions at that time. The Government forecast, released July 23rd, indicated an increase of 158,000,000 bushel over the July 1st estimate.

The vitality of hybrid corn is again going to show its wonderful quality in hastening this year's crop to maturity.

WHEAT: Winter wheat is pretty well harvested. Yields have exceeded early estimates. Quality good. Summer fallow wheat in western Nebraska and South Dakota as well as eastern Colorado has made a most satisfactory crop.

Good crop of spring wheat in prospect in major producing areas of Minnesota, North and South Dakota. Prospects splendid for better than average yield. Many fields from 17 to 25 bushels.

RYE: Crop good. First combine report from Blunt in central South Dakota received July 26th indicated yield of 28 bushel.

OATS: The "problem child" this year. This has been a variable year for this crop. Much depended on the variety planted. Numerous inspections throughout the territory have disclosed wide infestation of Helminthosporium blight (root rot). Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and southern Minnesota have suffered. Wisconsin and northern Illinois not so hard hit. Hazen Shands, Agronomist at the Wisconsin Experiment Station expects the crop in that state to equal or exceed 1946. Many wonderful fields noted in the state July 16th to 20th.

Blight infested oats of the popular rust-free varieties released a few years ago - i.e. - Vicland, Boone, Tama, Control, Cedar etc. very disappointing. Thin on ground and prematurely ripened. Clinton oats outstanding. One 200 acre field in Marshall County, Iowa, inspected on July 12th, looked good for 90 bushel. It is estimated there will be between fifteen and twenty million bushel of Clinton oats harvested this year, largely in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. A sufficient quantity to sow the 1948 oat acreage in these states.

Fordica, a new variety, good in most areas.

Bond cross oats, all closely related to Clinton, also promising satisfactory yields in our territory.

BARLEY: A splendid crop. Early thrashing above expectations. Many 40 to 50 bushel fields. Some lodging; however, quality of the grain is good and yield not materially affected. New Wisconsin and Dakota malting varieties very promising.

FLAX: Outstanding crop this year. Fields in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa coming to maturity with prospects for an exceptional yield. Probably the best on record. Relatively few weeds, especially where spraying resorted to. Acreage almost double last year.

Owner of a 100 acre field near Hurley, South Dakota offered \$10,000. for his crop standing in the field July 18th. Buyer apparently figured crop would make upwards of 25 bushel per acre and that a \$6.00 price, basis Minneapolis, would net him a nice profit.

CANNING CROPS: Pea canning practically completed. Cool weather in June brought both early and late crops along satisfactorily and quality of peas very high. Yields of 3,000 pounds per acre in many of our Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota sections.

Sweet corn developing rapidly. Many fields tasseled. It is possible some canning will be under way by August 20th; however, most activity will occur in September.

HAY: Crop heavy in extreme north. Second cutting alfalfa very satisfactory and to a large extent harvested under ideal weather conditions. Wild hay in Elkhorn Valley and Sandhills of Nebraska very heavy and quality splendid.

PASTURES: Showing effect of scant surface moisture in recent weeks. Many pastures in dairy sections of Wisconsin and Minnesota over-grazed. Starting to use Sudan Grass pasture where available. Some early pea fields plowed and planted to Sudan. This giving promise of providing heavy late summer grazing.

SOY BEANS: Growing rapidly. Most fields very clean. Early planted beans almost up to normal. Considerable planting as late as July 15th on flooded valley areas in Iowa. Many of these planted in rows in hopes of seed crop maturing. Other late planted fields broadcast to be used for hay.

POTATOES: Northern Wisconsin-Upper Peninsula of Michigan area crop looks good but backward and needing rain. Big operators started irrigating July 15th. Northeastern South Dakota area tributary to Watertown crop inspected July 23rd very promising. Fields clean and setting a large number of tubers. About two good rains needed to finish crop. Some hail damage in the Clark, S.D. area.

SUGAR BEETS: Crop developing rapidly. Stand good and fields clean. Belle Fourche Valley, S.D. acreage large and prospects splendid. Equally favorable outlook in Riverton area of central Wyoming. Fine outlook in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin sections providing ample August and September rains are received. Outstanding prospects in Cook County and other sections tributary to Chicago.

FRUITS: Door County, Wisconsin cherry harvest started two weeks late. Prospects for 60% of last year's big crop. Cranberries developing nicely in Wisconsin bogs. Heavy raspberry crop in Twin City area of Minnesota. Most farm small fruits average crop.

LIVE-STOCK: Feeder cattle arriving at markets in recent weeks selling at high prices. Farmers feel that with abundant roughage and possibility of some immature corn they will continue their feeding operations pretty much on a normal basis. High price of fat stock also a temptation. Both light and heavy feeders sold at \$24.00 per CWT. in Omaha last week. Yearling heifers at \$22.60. These prices all time high.

Spring shotes developing very rapidly. First of the crop will be marketed this month. Fear of a shortage of feed for hogs pretty well over. The wise farmer will do well to stay in the game. A sow bred at this time will produce an early December litter. December is normally a month of moderate temperatures and pigs that are given a good start at that time can be made ready for the July-August, 1948 market, a season when the highest prices of the year usually prevail.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

An erratic 1947 agricultural season could wind up well if Nature would give us a shower of about one inch each week during August.

At Watertown, S.D. on July 23rd, two 12-row potato spray machines were seen working back and forth in rows 160 rods long. Each round trip made by these two machines covered 10 acres. A truck with tanks of water stood nearby at the completion of each round to refill the spray tanks. This is an example of big farming at its best. The success of our American farmers in overcoming the terrific handicaps which have beset them this year is due in most cases to the adoption of just such practices as this.

Quite a few grain binders are being used, especially on oats. Many men have decided to save their straw while others have cut while too green to combine in order to minimize the danger of hail and storm damage. Still others have bound and shocked part of their grain in order to lengthen the marketing season.

The combine is a wonderful farm implement; however, it has been responsible for producing a situation in grain marketing which is difficult to meet. When a flock of combines move into a community a tremendous amount of grain is pounded out in one day. As an illustration - in 1945 in one community in eastern South Dakota 17 combines were thrashing grain to be delivered to one elevator. On one Monday morning this elevator started out filled with the exception of room for 3,000 bushel of oats. During the day it loaded 7 carloads and that night the elevator was plugged. In other words, better than 20,000 bushel of oats had been delivered in one day to this elevator. May we repeat - even though the railroads had sufficient cars to handle all of the combined grain there would not be sufficient facilities at the terminal markets to unload and to store it in the short span of a few weeks. The practical solution is for more grain storage space to be developed on farms.

All of the moisture which washed off our fields during June's cloud-bursts and floods is needed at this time. Too bad a larger part of it could not have been held back of dams as well as in contours and terraces such as those developed where soil conservation practices are followed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

Contours on a rather rolling potato farm in northeastern South Dakota, held all of a one inch rain which fell in late July. The owner felt that the expense and extra work involved in laying out the farm would be more than justified in the results from holding this water where it was needed.

August pastures are a disappointment 95% of the time. Watch this year's conditions and endeavor to surmount the difficulties next year. Farmers with luxurious growing mixtures of alfalfa and Brome grass are pretty well set up for pasture. Those who seeded Sudan Grass in June also have their problem fairly well taken care of.

We live in an era of spraying. We now spray cows and steers for flies. We spray potato vines to eliminate insects and minimize infectious disease. We spray fields to kill broad-leafed weeds and we spray the walls of our living quarters, as well as screens and in this way avoid the annoyance of flies and mosquitos. The war hastened the development of the technique of spraying.

An Illinois seed corn dealer sold a ten bushel lot to a central Indiana farmer on July 11th. This was intended for immediate use.

Some of our readers may wonder why we name our crop report "The Green and The Gold". A look at the countryside today gives the answer. The gold represents the ripening grain and the green, the growing corn, soy beans alfalfa and other late season crops; therefore, we feel that green and gold are true symbols of agriculture.

Incidentally, green and gold are also the colors of our famous "400" fleet of Streamliners.

H. J. GRAMLICH

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

OCT 18 1947

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 2
Number 8

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

Crop Report
AUGUST 15TH, 1947

CORN -
A GLUTTON
FOR
PUNISHMENT!

The first two weeks in August have been hot and dry. No showers of importance throughout the central Corn Belt. Intense heat in the main producing areas of Iowa, southern Minnesota, Illinois and Nebraska and South Dakota, combined with the protracted drought of the past five weeks, have checked the growth of corn, but in most communities plants have not burned and a general rain within a few days could result in a decent kind of corn crop.

The absence of hot winds during the period of extreme heat is what has saved the corn from "cooking". Hybrid corn has an exceedingly strong and complete root system. To this, and the absence of hot winds, can be attributed the tenacity with which the crop has held on during the past two weeks.

The crop is in pretty good shape in most of the major producing sections of Illinois. A strip across central Wisconsin which received fairly good rains on July 26th looked very promising on August 10th. The eastern fringe of Iowa got some of the same rain and corn, especially in the Mississippi River counties, benefitted.

A trip across Iowa from Clinton to Boone on our main line August 11th showed corn had stood up remarkably well. Early planted fields are "earring" and most of them show no burning either at the top or fired leaves at the bottom. Practically no curled corn was seen other than replanted fields along flooded valleys. The trip was made during the middle of the day with the temperature in the high nineties.

Early corn has done surprisingly well. In a field of 70 day flint variety inspected at the Spooner experiment station of the University of Wisconsin, (125 miles northeast of the Twin Cities), on July 29th, most of the ears were already fertilized. Silks were red. Superintendent Art Stromman estimated that this field would be mature in another 30 days. It had received three overhead irrigation treatments of two inches each.

A field of 80 day corn in central Wisconsin, inspected August 10th had ears well formed and within a week of roasting ear stage. This had been planted May 16th.

RAINFALL

As mentioned in our August 1st report, water deficiency is the major limiting factor in connection with this year's corn crop. Many folks are still flood-conscious. It is difficult for them to forget the 10 to 20 inches of rain received throughout Iowa in June. It is also hard to conceive that over the same territory practically no rain of consequence has

RAINFALL
(Cont'd)

been received since July 5th. Much of the rapid growth of the corn plant during late July was made on sub-soil moisture which normally would have remained available to help the plants get through August. Even so, corn is proving to be a "glutton for punishment".

For the period July 1st to August 12th inclusive, rainfall, as reported by the U.S. Weather Bureau, was as follows:

	<u>1 9 4 7</u>	<u>NORMAL</u>
WISCONSIN	2.51 In.	4.80 In.
ILLINOIS (Cent. and Nor.)	5.64 In.	4.50 In.
MINNESOTA (Southern)	2.57 In.	4.57 In.
NORTH DAKOTA (Eastern)	2.95 In.	3.73 In.
SOUTH DAKOTA (Eastern)	2.12 In.	3.88 In.
SOUTH DAKOTA (Western)	1.69 In.	2.88 In.
NEBRASKA (Eastern)	5.04 In.	4.95 In.
NEBRASKA (Western)	4.04 In.	3.30 In.
IOWA (Northern)	1.26 In.	5.13 In.
IOWA (Southern)	1.01 In.	5.21 In.

Most of the rainfall this year occurred during the first week in July and fell on ground already water soaked. Only a few scattered showers have been received since then other than in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin where several fairly general rains occurred.

Even with a general rain soon we would be confronted with maturity problems. A freeze at a later than average date might be possible in this, the most freakish year in American agricultural history.

SOY

BEANS: The crop is standing the dry weather in splendid fashion. Plants have made a good growth; are in bloom and, in many cases, pods setting. The good condition of the soil and freedom from weeds are contributing factors.

WHEAT: Winter wheat proved to be up to expectations. Many high yields reported. An 80 acre field at Aurora, Illinois yielded 48 bushel.

Spring wheat has been hurt to some extent; however, it will make a good crop. Reports from South Dakota indicate 20 bushel average.

BARLEY: Barley is good. Quality fine. Many 50 bushel yields.

OATS: Oats range all the way from splendid to disappointing. A number of fields of Clinton yielding over 100 bushel have been reported from Illinois and Iowa. Other Helminthosporium (root rot) immune varieties yielding correspondingly well. The light yielding oats in most cases possess a very light test weight. Some loads received at Chicago tested 24 pounds. Heavy yielding varieties are testing up to 40 pounds.

CANNING Pea harvest has been completed. Crop splendid and quality good. AND TRUCK Yields as high as two ton per acre reported from some districts.

CROPS: Sweet corn will depend on rainfall in the next two weeks. Could make a good crop although late.

CANNING
AND TRUCK
CROPS:
(Cont'd)

Cabbage hurt by dry weather.

Cucumbers hurt by excessive heat and drought. Only one-third of usual crop in some sections. Rain could still help materially.

POTATOES:

Potatoes range from good to poor. Dry weather has cut yield in many places. Overhead irrigation being used extensively in most major producing sections of Wisconsin. The northern half of the state dry. At Spooner only five inches of rain received during three months period May-July, an all-time drought record, compared with six inches during the same period in drought year of 1936. Upper Peninsula of Michigan potatoes benefitted from heavy rain on August 6th. This was over 3 inches in the Delta County area. Potatoes in the irrigated section of the west doing well. Crop hurt in the Watertown-Clark area of northeast South Dakota.

SUGAR
BEETS:

Sugar beets splendid. Prospects for a near record yield if rain received this month in areas where irrigation not available.

PASTURES:

Pastures dry. Cattle depending on cured early season growth.

HAY:

Crop good. First cutting very heavy and bulk of it cured in good shape. Second cutting shorter than usual but of splendid quality.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Reserves of old corn temporarily frozen on farms awaiting outcome of an unpredictable new crop.

In the southern half of the Corn Belt corn usually matures several weeks ahead of killing frosts.

Piggy sows being sold in some central Iowa areas account dry weather and high feed prices.

Should a percentage of the corn not mature much value could be obtained from the immature ears as livestock feed. If a general rain is not received soon the greatest feed value would be derived from a large majority of the corn fields if cut for ensilage. A large movement of range cattle is anticipated and Corn Belt farmers could handle the feeder end of these with ensilage and protein meal plus some hay.

In the past, droughts in Illinois and Iowa have usually been broken by August 10th to 15th. This was definitely the case in 1934. That year the A.A.A. in Washington issued a special permit to Illinois farmers to plant soy beans for hay on summer fallowed land. With late August rains and a favorable September these beans made from two to three ton of cured hay per acre.

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Volume 2
Number 9

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

Crop Report
September 1st, 1947

1947 -
NOT SO
BAD!

The 1947 crop season is rapidly drawing to a close. It has presented many perplexing problems and the adverse side of it has received a tremendous amount of public attention.

Briefly summarized, in spite of handicaps we have had wonderful crops of wheat, barley, flax and rye. Oats have been spotted, but in all, quite a large total crop. An abundance of moisture early in the season gave us a splendid growth of grass with abundant pasture throughout the first two-thirds of the summer and a good hay crop.

Thus, the summer season of 1947, in spite of erratic conditions and handicaps of seemingly insurmountable proportions, gives us much to be thankful for.

RAIN-FALL

August rainfall was extremely light in most regions. Exceptions to this occurred in the northern part of our territory. From two to five inches of rain were received in Upper Michigan and parts of upper Wisconsin during the first half of the month. Three inches were experienced across southern Minnesota on August 18th. Iowa got considerable relief on August 24th.

TEMPER-ATURES:

This was the hottest August on record. Temperatures above 100 degrees occurred over the entire territory with some areas reaching this peak daily for a week at a time. Fortunately, no hot winds were experienced.

CORN:

Corn has been subjected to terrific punishment during August; however, an inventory as of this date indicates the following:

- 1-Most fields have remained green and unburnt.
- 2-A tremendous variation exists in all communities.- i.e. - some good, some fair and some poor fields.
- 3-Ears are smaller than usual.
- 4-Early plantings best.
- 5-With a late frost there will be a goodly amount of saleable corn.

A splendid sample of Squaw corn was secured at Huron, S.D. on August 22nd. This field was planted May 16th. Kernels were dented and the owner stated the crop would yield 40 bushel. This would have furnished an ideal place to "finish" spring pigs. Rains across southern Minnesota and southern Wisconsin have kept the corn coming rapidly.

SALVAGING DAMAGED CORN:

Fields which cannot mature or are badly damaged by drought might well be cut for silage. This makes very satisfactory feed for fattening cattle and lambs and at present prices of feed such silage could prove to have a value of from \$12.00 to \$18.00 per ton.

SALVAG-
ING DAMAG-
ED CORN:
(Cont'd)

For silage purposes the cutting will need to be done during the month of September. If silos are not available and temporary units cannot be obtained it is very easy to store silage in large stacks or piles on the ground. This practice has been followed by canning factories for many years and very little spoilage has resulted. With the relatively large number of field forage cutters available, the problem of piling up large quantities of silage is much simpler than it used to be. Remember, damaged corn stalks quickly lose their palatability standing in the fields and fall rains and winds result in most of the leaves falling into the mud.

The world's food situation is such that we should endeavor to preserve the maximum number of these drought-damaged fields for silage. There is an abundance of beef cattle on the ranges. These can be fattened in the Corn Belt largely on silage of the type indicated, together with one to two pounds of protein cake daily, and some hay. They will make better beef than most of us have been able to buy during the past five years.

The corn which is husked from other fields can thus be made available, to a large extent, for commercial use. If farmers will cut corn fields containing relatively little saleable corn we can get through the forthcoming year with our colors flying.

SOY BEANS:

Dry weather throughout Iowa and Illinois, where the major part of the soy bean crop is produced, has hurt the total yield materially, although plants have taken the abuse pretty well. No chance for the bumper crop that looked possible the first of the month, however.

WHEAT:

Spring wheat better than early estimates. Many 30 to 35 bushel yields. Twenty to twenty five bushel average in most major producing areas.

A review of the Winter wheat situation shows that the record 1,100,000,000 bushel crop was produced in thirty nine states. The Winter wheat belt used to be thought of as a few states. New, hardy varieties have been a factor in changing this. South Dakota, long thought of as a leading Spring wheat state produced seven and one quarter million bushel. Summer fallow in the western half of the high plains section has increased the certainty and the size of the crop.

BARLEY:

Above expectations. Quality good. Many fields in Watertown, South Dakota grossing over \$100.00 per acre.

OATS:

Threshing returns indicate yields ranging from twenty to one hundred bushel; to a large extent variations due to type of seed used. Some southern Illinois fields too poor to harvest.

Clinton oats averaging 60 bushel in Illinois. Yields in Minnesota and South Dakota also quite satisfactory. Reports indicate up to 70 bushel maximum in most communities.

**CANNING
AND TRUCK
CROPS:**

Sweet corn hurt by high temperatures and drought. Total yield cut. Three inch rain across Minnesota August 18th Winona to Tracy very beneficial, to late corn and other canning crops. Rains in northern half of Wisconsin at the same time helpful to cucumbers, cabbage and canning beets.

POTATOES:

Irrigated fields in upper Wisconsin good. Dry land potatoes in northeastern South Dakota about 75% of usual crop. First diggings up to 125 bushel yields. Quality splendid. Central Wyoming irrigated area producing splendid crop. Total U.S. crop lowered from early estimates. No over-production this year.

**SUGAR
BEETS:**

Crop maturing satisfactorily. South Dakota irrigated beets promise ten ton yield. Late rains have helped crop in unirrigated areas of Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern Iowa.

PASTURES:

Dry and short in the Corn Belt. Still satisfactory in the range areas where early season rainfall produced very large growth off grass.

HAY:

Third cutting alfalfa cut short by drought. Native hay crop in Elkhorn Valley and Sand Hills of northern Nebraska very good.

LIVESTOCK:

Early movement of cattle to Corn Belt very restricted account uncertain corn crop and fall pasture. Picture should change quickly following general rain. Very attractive price on fat cattle should be stimulating factor. Range cattle in exceptionally good condition. General use of D.D.T. sprays plus favorable pasture cause of this.

HOGS:

Some movement of brood sows to market account high prices of grain and anticipated local shortage of feed. This would seem to be a good time to stay in the hog business.

GENERAL OBSERVATION:

This all adds up to the fact that we are not put out of business by adverse conditions when they hit us for a few weeks in mid-summer or at some other time during the growing season.

Agriculture gathers its crops over a six-months period - May to November. The year 1947 has disappointed us in some places and surprised us in others. We cannot go on indefinitely having record years and following six years of bumper crops this years total production can be gratifying.

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OCT 18 1947

Volume 2
Number 10

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
Crop Report
OCTOBER 1st, 1947

September brings to a close a most unusual season. This month has been warm. In reality we have had August weather in September much as we had May weather in June. As a result most corn has matured and was in no danger when the first frost hit the northern territory early on the morning of Monday, September 22nd. Only a small percentage of the corn acreage, in major producing areas, was not mature at that time. The frost was so light that relatively little damage was done.

CORN: The corn crop is, without question, better than we thought it would be. Final figures will undoubtedly show a 100,000,000 bushel increase over the Government's September 1st estimate. To be sure, the fields are spotted and there will be some disappointments. On the other hand, the writer has in the past few days been in many fields in northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, southern Minnesota and points in Iowa where yields of 70 to 80 bushel will be harvested.

Hybrid corn with its tremendous mule-like hardiness proved to have the vitality to withstand the mid-summer drought.

General rains, which fell on September 10th to 12th brought around two inches of moisture in most sections of Iowa, southern Minnesota Wisconsin and Illinois. This did considerable good in the late corn fields. Much of the drought damaged corn and late planted fields went into the silo while some was cut for fodder. This leaves the amount of immature corn relatively small and the anticipated soft corn problem will not materialize.

The first new corn was received on the Chicago Market Monday, September 22nd. It was from southern Indiana, graded "Sample" and sold for \$2.20 per bushel.

SOY BEANS: Soy beans also came through with flying colors and early combine reports indicate yields above expectations. The harvest is on and early yields indicate that the crop has withstood the drought surprisingly well. While not quite up to last year's yields, reports from 20 to 25 bushel are being received. Latest fields need another 10 days to reach maturity.

SUGAR BEETS September proved to be an ideal month for this crop. The unusual warmth forced growth and made up for early delays. Yields of 10 to 14 ton are anticipated. The Red River Valley area estimates 11 ton per acre on the 37,000 acres planted there. The Belle Fourche Valley crop about the same. Wisconsin areas have made tremendous late summer growth.

FALL FLOWING: Late rains have enabled fall plowing to progress satisfactorily. With large tractor outfits a speedy turn-over is being made.

POTATOES: Harvesting operations are well under way. The plants remained green unusually late, due, in part, to DDT spray and the lateness of the season. Many vines killed with flame torches in order to encourage maturity of tubers.

Wisconsin crop surprisingly good. Some yields up to 500 bushel per acre reported in the Antigo-Eagle River area. Watertown area in South Dakota producing approximately three-quarters of last year's tonnage.

PASTURES: Very dry until the latter part of the month causing very unsatisfactory grazing through all of August and most of September. Considerable improvement noted since recent rains.

LIVE-STOCK: The Corn Belt is buying feeder cattle. The feeding of livestock is an art which has been bred into the farmers of that region. They have paid an average of from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per cwt. more for feeder cattle thus far this year than for the same period in 1946. Most good yearlings have brought about \$23.50 compared to \$16.50 last fall. Fleishy, heavy feeders have sold up to \$29.00 cwt.

When one speaks in terms of feeder steers costing from \$400 to \$500 per head we are inclined to pinch ourselves and wonder if we are dreaming. Yet this is what has happened.

Spring pigs are rapidly reaching the finishing stage. Quite a few have already been shipped. While the corn-hog ratio is still unfavorable to the hog man, he knows that the swine business has been an underlying factor in the prosperity of the Corn Belt and he will not get caught short on hogs.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

In the midst of burned-out pastures it was refreshing to find an occasional patch of Sudan Grass. This gave a large amount of pasture through the summer. There should be a patch of it on most dairy farms.

Reports from the Pacific Northwest indicate an apple crop of some 22,000 cars. One comment reads "largest, reddest and most pest-free crop produced in the history of the area" Color is a big item in the sale of apples and the "reddest of reds" seems to meet the human eye with the greatest appeal.

Corn got above \$2.52 at country elevators in northern Illinois at the mid-September peak. This is \$85.00 per ton. Protein supplements are more available than they have been for several years and the price is not far above that of corn on a ton basis. This might be a good time to lay in anticipated supplies.

38.1
81

From: H. J. GRAMLICH
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYS.)
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS)



CHRISTMAS, 1947

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

The Christmas season is with us. It is time for us to again extend greetings. Throughout the year we have come to you with the Green and the Gold in a statistical form. Today, we come to you with our annual Christmas edition, which, while containing but little factual material, we hope will let you know that we are proud of our fine relationship with you.

Last year the inspiration for the Christmas letter was gained from a turnip. This year's letter is, likewise, inspired by the same vegetable. Our turnip this year was obtained the day before Thanksgiving at a market in Des Moines, Iowa. The farmer had planted the seed from which it grew, on August 20th. It weighs one pound. Just think, August 20th is within ten days of Labor Day. At that time we are thinking the growing season is over and winter will soon be with us. Yet that farmer was sufficiently optimistic to plant turnips - three acres of them - and from that field harvested several hundred bushel. Truly, Nature is wonderful.

The civilization of man has been marked by symbols. In early history we find three agricultural crops symbolic of important phases of our lives. These are (1) the pomegranate; (2) the fig and (3) the grape.

The pomegranate symbolizes fertility. We have, in the Corn Belt, the most fertile soil in the world. It took a fertile soil to produce the turnip. We have been prone to rob our soil and permit much of it to wash down stream. Modern soil conservation methods are at last awakening us to our responsibility, and we are today correcting our mistakes.

The fig symbolizes education. Our forefathers who settled in this most fertile area had very little opportunity to obtain an education. Most of them possessed little more than the equivalent of second or third grade schooling, yet they could foresee the importance of education and built schools and colleges and saw to it that the foundation was laid for establishing a real educational system - in fact, the finest in the world.

The grape symbolizes fellowship and brotherhood of man. The cluster of grapes embodies the thought that we should pull together rather than work against each other. Modern civic clubs carry out this idea beautifully. Men who formerly held themselves aloof and looked upon their competitors as scoundrels now can see the good side of their fellowmen. This is a result of contacts which they

have made through such agencies as the civic clubs; Chamber of Commerce; trade associations and other groups with which they are affiliated. In rural areas groups of this kind frequently get together with farmers and this has resulted in a fine blending of ideas.

Agriculture, today, is very complicated. I have before me two Delicious apples. Both are bright red. The one is perfectly shaped, sound and weighs twelve ounces. The other weighs only four ounces, is lop-sided, wormy, skin-snarled and lacking in appeal. What makes the difference? Both apples were produced in the Pacific Northwest. The large one is a result of the application of modern science. The tree on which it grew was sprayed, irrigated, fertilized, pruned, pollenized, thinned and in other ways given scientific care. The little apple was bought on the public market in Portland, Oregon, from a little old lady who stated she did not have time to take care of her trees. All her apples were comparable to this one. Aside from the color they had none of the qualities which have made apples from that section famous.

Today, all forms of agricultural endeavor are complicated. They can either be done the right way or the wrong way. Hybrid corn; new varieties of oats; barley; flax; alfalfa and various other crops all play an important part. Add to this proper care of the soil and good methods of procedure throughout the crop season and you have top quality products which have provided food for the people of America as well as abroad.

While talking about changes in Agriculture, we must also take into consideration our modern machinery. Recently, while at Grand DeTour, Illinois, I saw the spot where John Deere built his first steel plow, 110 years ago. Steel plows are such a commonplace article today that most of us do not realize its predecessor was a wooden stick. Only an occasional person appreciates that two-thirds of the land of the world is still stirred by wooden sticks and plows.

Few of us realize that over one-half of the people of the world can neither read nor write. We are so wrapped up in ourselves that we do not have time to learn how the balance of our fellowmen are getting on.

The farmer during this past year has received good prices for that which he has taken from the soil. Recently, while in a grain elevator at Huron, S. D., I was shown a purchase slip on a load of rye and one of wheat, brought into the elevator on September 29th, 1932. The rye, 57 bushel and 28 pounds, at 19¢ per bushel, brought \$10.83. The wheat, 47½ bushel at 36¢ - \$17.10. The day I was in the elevator \$2.56 was offered for rye and a farmer bringing in a load comparable to the one referred to above would have received a check for \$146.64. The wheat bid was \$2.84 and a 47½ bushel load would have brought \$134.90.

We hope we will never again see prices as low as in 1932, yet that was only 15 years ago. Nobody knows what the future may hold for us. We should be happy over current prices for farm commodities and trust that they will remain at a good strong level for many years to come. When the farmer receives good prices he buys the products of industry, and prosperity reigns on the farm as well as in the cities, whether they be industrial or in rural communities. Agriculture and industry are certainly tied together.

January 1st marks the beginning of the North Western Railway's 100th year. Our railroad has developed with the west. The men who settled in this area and broke the prairies had much the same type of foresight as the original North Western Railway executives. These men bought a little steam engine and brought it into Chicago in order that it might assume its responsibilities as the power unit on the first railroad into what was to become the world's leading railroad center. Chicago at that time was a swamp and the engine was shipped in by boat.

A likeness of this little engine, officially known as The Pioneer, appears on our 1948 calendar. The engine itself may be found in the Chicago Museum of Science and History. Fifteen feet long - only one pair of drive wheels, smaller by far than today's automobile, it is quite a contrast to the big diesels that speed over the tracks at 90 miles per hour.

We are proud to celebrate this 100th anniversary at the same time that many cities and several states in our territory are celebrating similar events.

As the Christmas season approaches, the spirit of giving rather than receiving is foremost among mankind. A few weeks ago we handled the Friendship Train from Omaha to Chicago. All along the way, citizens came forward with large quantities of food to give to their fellowmen in foreign lands who need nourishment. This Friendship Train embodies the thought that we are endeavoring to convey.

At this Christmas season let us think more about our fellowmen. We will be with our family and loved ones. This is as it should be. However, let us also keep a finer understanding of how new wealth is created and from whence our food cometh.

This little greeting is not intended to be a sermon but, rather, just a conveyor of good wishes to you and yours and may your holiday season be the finest ever.

APR 8 1948

From: H J GRAMLICH

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Number 1

Volume 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

April 1, 1948

With this issue of the Green and the Gold we are opening the 1948 crop reporting season; however, April 1st is an early date to bring much in the way of news regarding crops in the nine states served by the Chicago and North Western System - i.e. - Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Wisconsin.

March was a cold month with much rain and snow. During the second week of the month temperatures were down to twenty below zero in many places in our territory. This is a record.

The winter, generally, was one of extremes. For instance, in parts of South Dakota there has been very heavy snow covering from early in November up to this date. In the Red River Valley of North Dakota and western Minnesota highways were reported blocked as late as March 20th, with a total snow fall for the season at Grafton, North Dakota, of 59 inches.

On the other hand, the state of Iowa had relatively little snow until late February. A total of 15 to 20 inches was received in many places during March.

Northern Illinois experienced an open winter up to the first of the year. Since then they have been snowed in.

WINTER**WHEAT:**

The great winter wheat producing sections of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota have, to a considerable extent, been protected with a covering of snow and present indications are that the wheat, while late, will come through satisfactorily. A big grower at Winner, S.D. writes, under date of March 17th, as follows: "Much of our winter wheat has not shown up yet but we feel there is no reason to be concerned about it as many times we do not have winter wheat above the ground at this time of year."

Much of the winter wheat in Kansas and southeastern Nebraska was planted 60 to 80 days late and time alone will have to tell regarding the crop it will produce. A total crop of from 60% to 70% of that produced in Kansas last year would about check with current thinking in the Jayhawker state. The 1947 crop of 286,702,000 bushel was, of course, an all-time record.

WINTER

WHEAT

(Cont'd)

Winter wheat in western Nebraska is practically all grown on fallowed land. This got a splendid start last fall and looks exceptionally good. Reports from the Pacific Northwest indicate winter wheat prospects are splendid.

WATER

Water is the essence of agriculture. It is the largest single factor involved in determining production. Plants must have an abundance of it, especially at the season when they are in heavy production.

Reserve moisture stored in the sub-soil frequently helps carry through periods of scant and irregular rainfall. The fall of 1947 in most of our territory was exceptionally dry. This accounted for the delayed planting of tremendous acreages of winter wheat.

Moisture received in the form of snow and rain in late February and March have built up a considerable reserve although frozen ground in some places resulted in the rain producing floods.

An outstanding example of the serious affects of drought has occurred in California. Water there is so short that reports from Santa Barbara tell of residents paying 2¢ per gallon for mountain water hauled in for use on shrubbery and plants. This would be at the rate of \$5.00 per ton. One inch of rain puts 113 ton of water on an acre of land. At Santa Barbara costs this would carry a price of \$565.00. By contrast city residents of Chicago pay less than 2¢ per ton for the water which they use. Santa Barbara receives its city water from the Santa Ynez River. The water shed of this river since July 1st, 1947, has received only 2.6 inches of rain compared to an 18 inch normal. Showers the last few days have helped but there is a serious problem ahead.

Water sheds on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains have fared much better. About the usual amount of snow lies in the high mountain ranges. The March 1st report from Brooks Lake No. 3 on the Upper Wind River above the Riverton area in Wyoming shows 61.8 inches of snow, possessing a water content of 19.1 inches. A generally favorable reserve of snow which will melt as the season advances assures ample water for irrigation in most of the valleys which we serve in Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska.

INTENDED
ACREAGES

Farmers intentions to plant indicate a marked increase in oat acreages, especially in Iowa. This can be attributed to three things:

- 1 - Need for feed as a result of shortage of corn following last year's poor crop.
- 2 - The availability of an abundance of seed of good Clinton and other improved varieties.
- 3 - Desire to get a larger acreage of land seeded to grass and thus check soil depletion.

**INTENDED
ACREAGES
(Cont'd)**

Corn acreage gives promise of being near normal.
Soy beans will be down.
Sugar beets and potatoes will be up a little.
Great Northern and Pinto beans will probably level off.
Canning crop acreage will be large; however, off some from 1947.

Seasonal developments may influence acreage of crops. Last year prolonged wet weather resulted in reduced acreage of oats. Even so, many fields planted in May made yields upwards of 100 bushel. This was due to June being wet and cool - in fact, about like an average May.

**FARM
WORK
STATUS:**

To date, practically nothing has been done in the fields in our territory. Another week of warm, dry weather should permit activities to start. Generally, field work is well under way by March 20th and not infrequently a considerable acreage of oats planted by April 1st. On March 25th, 1946, on a 100 mile trip across north central Iowa it was noted that most of the oat acreage was already planted.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Mechanized farming permits overcoming weather handicaps. A few good days in the fields with tractors and large implements take the backlog out of delayed farm work.

March might be "dubbed" the month of black mud. This March was unusually wet. Moisture in March is a good omen and speaks well for building up reserve moisture in the soil.

A considerable movement of grain is anticipated in surplus areas as soon as side roads are dry enough to permit hauling.

Farm prices broke severely during February but have levelled off to some extent since. This is a splendid time for us to remember the difference between price and value, or the true worth of any commodity. In periods of inflation we are inclined to let our enthusiasm overshadow our better judgment.

Crop conditions abroad are much better than a year ago. This could be a factor in easing the demand for any surplus we might produce this year.

Last year at this time it virtually required a doctor's order to purchase a box of apples and potatoes were a "drug" on the market. This year potatoes are selling at the highest levels in many seasons and apple growers have taken a severe loss in getting rid of their heavy storage holdings.

Each year the farmer plants his seed and with careful management produces large crops. From these crops we experience increased prosperity. The new wealth of our nation truly comes out of the soil. It shall be our purpose during the crop season to keep our readers informed of the whims of a capricious weatherman plus the effect thereof on the millions of acres of growing crops throughout the heart of America, the most fertile and productive section in the world.

MAY 8 1948

From: H J GRAMLICH
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 CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 3
 Number 2

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
 May 1st, 1948

April was a dry, windy month. Top soil dried out quickly. Small grain was planted during the forepart of the month. Dry weather the last two weeks enabled farmers to get corn ground plowed. Soil is mellow and in ideal condition, other than the tendency towards dryness.

We are at the turning point. Weather, especially rainfall, will be the number one factor from here on. At this writing, April 27th, rains have been "spotted". A good "soaker" would be very welcome. A one-inch rain fell across central South Dakota from Rapid City to Brookings on the 19th. Other good showers across South Dakota to Southern Minnesota on the 25th and 26th. Showers in Iowa on April 22nd and 23rd fairly general. Some heavy rains in Nebraska on the 24th. Surface soil dry in northern Illinois. Fields ready.

SMALL GRAIN SEEDING: Farm work proceeded rapidly in most sections after April 10th. Most seeding completed by the 20th. On the whole, much more favorable conditions for the seeding of spring grains than in 1947 when considerable oats planted in May. Frequent rains in central Illinois kept soil too wet for working. Some fields, originally intended for oats held for soy beans.

PLOWING FOR CORN: Plowing has advanced rapidly. The relatively dry surface soil has made it easy to turn over a tremendous acreage. Most of the plowing for corn was completed by April 25th. In 1947 the majority of fields, other than sod, were too wet to plow until May and then the operation had to be accomplished between showers.

WINTER WHEAT: Still a great deal of uncertainty regarding this crop. Much of it had two strikes against it when it emerged from the winter. The exceedingly dry fall had delayed planting and the severe winter was hard on the newly sprouted grain.

J C Swinbank of the Nebraska Grain Improvement Association made a 500 mile trip across southern Nebraska from Lincoln to McCook and back in mid-month and reported about 35% of the wheat in eastern and central parts of southern Nebraska no further advanced than it would normally be the last of October. About 12% of the crop in very bad shape and 50% of the fields looking fair to good. This is in an area where prolonged drought in the fall and early winter prevented grain from starting. Winds in April did much damage to fields which had made only a small growth.

A trip through the Winner, S.D. area on April 13th and 14th disclosed the wheat coming along reasonably well but a good rain needed. Only two inches of moisture in that area January 1st to that date.

WINTER
WHEAT
(Cont'd)

In analyzing this winter wheat crop it would be well to remember that in the major producing areas late seeding results in a curtailed yield; also, that a considerable part of the credit for a big crop usually goes to heavy fall moisture. In the fall of 1947 we had far less than normal moisture, in contrast to a record amount in the fall of 1946. This was largely responsible for the all-time record winter wheat crop of 1947. The outlook for the crop is uncertain and we would advise caution in optimism pertaining to it.

GRASSES:

Much of the red clover in Iowa was killed due to the open winter and severe cold. There will be a definite shortage of legume hay in this section and in others where similar experience with clover was encountered. Range grasses started slowly. About two weeks late.

GRAIN
ON
FARMS:

High prices for all farm grains have caused farmers to be ultra-conservative in their feeding. April 1st stocks on farms actually show an increase in barley, rye and wheat over a year ago. Corn and oats are down; however, there are still considerable amounts of both of these:

GRAIN	U. S. FARM STOCKS OF GRAIN - APRIL 1st.				INC. OR DEC.
	1948		1947		
Wheat	256,533,000 Bu.		139,851,000 Bu.		116,682,000 Bu.
Corn	849,198,000 "		1,276,329,000 "		427,131,000 "
Oats	410,644,000 "		532,895,000 "		122,251,000 "
Barley	68,696,000 "		66,531,000 "		2,165,000 "
Rye	4,434,000 "		1,700,000 "		2,734,000 "

CATTLE
SITUATION: Range cattle have come through the winter well. An abundance of hay in practically all of our territory. Many stock men have supplemented hay with high protein feed in pellet or cube form.

Feed lots throughout the Corn Belt have an unusually light number of cattle in them. The high price of feed and thin cattle together with general uncertainty, has caused many feeders to temporarily fold up. In a three mile strip, paralleling our line west of the Omaha Stock Yards, where normally several hundred thousand cattle are fattened each year, there did not appear to be a head on April 15th. Feed lots looked ghostly.

Price of low grade cattle continues at a peak. Beef bulls at \$23.00 to \$24.00 per cwt. higher than they were when fat cattle last winter were selling at \$40.00. Good fat cows at \$25.00 cwt. are at a peak. Cutter cows at \$18.00 to \$20.00 cwt. are also at a peak and the demand for them is terrific.

SPRING
PIG
CROP:

Farrowings reported as satisfactory in most of the territory. Early pigs off to a splendid start. Most farmers endeavoring to stay in the hog business in regions where corn is the principal crop. Dry weather much more conducive to thrifty pigs than the wet spring of 1947.

POULTRY:

Hatcheries reporting difficulty in disposing of chicks. Shortage of feed and relatively low market for birds major influencing factors. Many hatchery men drowning cockerels for lack of market. Quite probable that outlook will improve in the near future. The demand for animal products usually proves more consistent than that for grain following periods of high prices. Big crop of corn and other grain this year could change the picture much faster than the poultry man could get back into business.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

We are entering the period when cloudbursts, erosion and floods usually occur. Rains of from four to six inch volume not unusual. Such storms have taken a terrific toll from our soils in times past. Along the C&NW right-of-way in Iowa are places where we have built, during the past 80 years, three fences, one on top of the other, all due to top fertile soil washing off the hills and settling in the valleys.

As predicted, tractors and big implements have helped conquer the spring work. Field work is in pretty good shape even though there is a shortage of help and some early delay from mud, due to late thawing of snow.

Indications are that the first new wheat will be harvested in Texas and southern Oklahoma around May 20th.

We have had some extreme weather conditions. Early March saw a bitter cold spell while mid-April had some unusually warm days. Supt. James Adams of the North Platte, Nebr. Experiment Station reports that during a spell of twenty below zero around March 11th they lost 53 baby pigs due to freezing and on Sunday, April 18th, the unusual heat of 93° resulted in the overheating and death of two sows. Quite a radical change in the short period of five weeks.

Empty feed lots may develop conditions warranting the feeding of concentrated, high protein feeds in cube or pellet form to cattle on grass. These steers could then sell to killers in fall.

Always something to worry about in this business of agriculture. We have had an ideal April for farm work. There really should have been a little more rain to have slowed us up. The fields might not have looked as attractive but we would be feeling a little better about the outlook for this year's crops.

Dry, windy Aprils have sometimes proven to be the forerunner of summers of below normal rainfall.

Last year farmers waited all through April and May for the soil to dry so that they could get the tractors into the fields. As a result many fields were plowed when too wet. Oats were mudded in. Weeds never really got under complete control.

New sweet corn from Texas on the Chicago market in mid-April reminds us that the United States is a big country and possessed of a wide variety of climatic conditions. It was less than six months ago that sweet corn from the Pacific Northwest was moving to the eastern part of the United States in heavy carload volume.

We have had a series of seven pretty good crop years. Let's hope that 1948 continues the series.

From: H J GRAMLICH
GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RY. SYSTEM
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Volume 3

Number 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

June 1st, 1948

We enter June with wonderful prospects providing rain comes as needed. The relatively dry spring has enabled farmers to get fields into the pink of condition. Corn has been planted under near ideal circumstances. Drying winds have affected the top soil over vast areas. It is dry in the high plains states generally. There have been omens of a year of sub-normal moisture out there.

Conditions in Iowa, the heart of the Corn Belt, are wonderful; also, in southern Minnesota and Illinois. Timely rains could expand the area of outstanding prospects.

Briefly, our position today is as follows:

- 1 - Corn planted under very favorable circumstances. Early fields up to a splendid start and stand.
- 2 - Larger acreage of corn than planned account winter killing of grass.
- 3 - Winter wheat has deteriorated in many sections. Maximum yield not over 800,000,000 bushel.
- 4 - Row crop fields exceptionally free of weeds account ample disking and harrowing ahead of planters.
- 5 - Spring pigs exceptionally thrifty. Litters large.
- 6 - Pastures making considerable growth but behind last year.
- 7 - Tame hay prospects lowered by reduced acreage due to winter killing.
- 8 - We hope we are not in too good a condition. For several years we had wet springs and weedy fields. This year farm work completed early; fields clean and we could use a little more water.
- 9 - Soy beans largely in at this date, May 25th. Fields free of weeds and soil in wonderful tilth.

MOISTURE: The moisture situation, as of this date, May 25th, is just a little hard to explain. Illinois has had too much; Iowa just about right amount and states further west a touch of dryness which has held back fullest development of crops. To put this "in a nutshell" rainfall during both April and May has been heaviest in the eastern part of our territory and has gradually tapered off to the west. The same condition has prevailed from Wisconsin westward with more rain than needed in Wisconsin; about the right amount in Minnesota and a deficiency in South Dakota.

MOISTURE:
(Cont'd)

Kansas reports indicate a lack of moisture for maximum winter wheat development in the western two-thirds of the state. During the month of April 13 counties in western Kansas had less than .1 inch of rain; 17 others had from .1 to .5 inch and an additional 19 had from .5 to 1 inch. Forty nine counties with less than one inch of rain for the month. Areas in Nebraska fared similarly.

TEMPERATURES:

The first half of May was cool. Ideal for spring seeded grains and grasses. Too cool, however, for maximum development of gardens, pastures and corn. A spell of warm weather which started in the high plains states on May 15th reached a maximum of 100 degrees at several points in Montana on May 18th. High ninety degree temperatures were common over Nebraska, South Dakota during that week.

CORN:

The fine condition of the seed bed together with the high quality of the seed has resulted in a good stand over most of the territory. Considerable harrowing, prior to the emerging of the grain, was done and early cultivation is under way. In Nebraska two and one-half million acres were planted during the week of May 10th to 15th.

WINTER WHEAT:

This crop is still a gamble as it has been since it was planted last fall. The overall picture is not too good. Government estimates as of May 1st were too optimistic. Much of the wheat in Kansas and Nebraska has been injured by adverse conditions. Lack of frequent rains and strong winds have prevented full development which had earlier been impaired by late planting, and the dry fall of 1947. First new wheat received Texas markets May 18th.

SPRING WHEAT:

Plantings in many areas delayed by late snow and floods. This especially true in the Red River Valley. Some acreage originally intended for spring wheat going to feed crops.

BARLEY:

A big acreage of barley put in under favorable conditions. Crop making a good start. New, improved varieties being used, to splendid advantage.

FLAX:

Early fields show much promise. Stand looks good. Preparations made for spraying to control weeds. Minnesota, North and South Dakota area has large acreage.

OATS:

Large acreage in this crop. New disease-resistant varieties predominating. Clinton composing much of the acreage in Iowa, Illinois territory. Liberal plantings in adjoining states. Other Bond Cross varieties planted extensively also. Very heavy seeding of clover with oats and this up to a good start. Cool weather during most of May resulting in heavy stooling of oats. Some weedy fields.

CANNING CROPS:

Early peas have made a good growth and canning operations should be started by mid-month at most Illinois factories. Acreage going to other canning crops reported to be comparable to 1947. Some concern felt over carry over of canned peas. Factories report that most other canned goods well cleaned up.

SUGAR BEETS:

Reduced acreage of this crop in most territories. Crop has been handicapped by cool, rather unfavorable weather.

POULTRY: Some revived interest in poultry. Realization that a good crop of feed grains could materially improve the outlook. Four months hatchings of one hundred million under those of 1947. May 1st eggs in incubators down 9% from a year ago and chicks on hand May 1st down 17%

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

We are experiencing a period of very "flighty" prices. Feeder cattle at Corn Belt markets reached \$30.00 cwt. in mid-May. At the same time truck farmers in Mississippi were being paid only \$8.00 per ton for cabbage. The former is a record high and the latter a record low. There may be no direct connection between cabbage and cattle but the comparison emphasizes the abnormal conditions of today. Incidentally, the cabbage growers averaged \$92.50 per ton for their product last year.

Late spring freeze in the Washington fruit territory played havoc with prospects for soft fruits. Cool weather also interfered with pollination. April 25th was the coldest for that date on record at Seattle, Washington. A year ago, on the same date, the temperature of 87 degrees proved to be the warmest day of the year in that city.

There is an old saying that "a short crop has a long tail". There may be more old corn and other grains in the country than we think. Continued favorable outlook for the growing corn and small grain crops should "jar" the surplus loose.

Extremely high prices for corn throughout the entire season have put the brakes on the utilization of this grain. Products competitive to the manufactured ones produced from corn have been able to undersell. This has limited the use of the grain in industry. Feeders have all but kept corn locked in their safes. Result - less used than anticipated.

Grain prices have advanced since February 16w. No one will be injured in taking current markets for such surplus grain as is on hand. Where practical surplus old grain should be sold ahead of the new crop. Freight cars are available at this time. When combines enter the ripening grain fields like a hord of grasshoppers there is bound to be a glut at loading points.

Feeder cattle are selling at record prices. An Illinois farmer who wintered 275 head of yearlings was bid \$29.00 cwt. by another feeder the day the cattle were turned on grass. As these had cost only \$21.75 cwt. last fall and had been wintered on roughage, the temptation to take the profit existed; however, this man has a large acreage of grass and the cattle are a necessary part of his economic scheme.

Prices up to \$30.00 cwt. were paid at Missouri River markets. One string of 570 pound steers brought this price on May 17th at Omaha. This totaled \$171.00 per head. A few days later \$30.50 cwt. was paid.

During last winter and early spring there was a shortage of onions, and prices shot up to an unprecedented 15¢ per pound. To meet the shortage and take advantage of the red-hot market in this country, nions were shipped in from Australia, Egypt, Chile and New Zealand. In early April new onions from Texas appeared on the market in volume. By the end of that month the 15¢ level was cut in half and an abundance of onions were available at 7½ to 8¢ per pound. The old law of supply and demand seldom fails.

From: H J GRAMLICH
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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

JUL 7 1948
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 3
Number 4

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
July 1, 1948

It is a pleasure to be able to write an optimistic report!

Recent rains have improved the crop outlook tremendously. Showers which effectively broke the prolonged drought, covering the Corn Belt since May 15th, started to fall around June 10th and by the 20th most areas had received from 1½ to 3 inches. The best feature of this was that the rain was slow and steady and there was practically no run-off excepting in small areas where flash floods occurred.

The dry period enabled the farmers to cultivate their corn and other row crops. Fields were in ideal shape aside from a few areas where quack grass grew faster than the corn.

Pastures and oats suffered from the drought; however, both have recovered rapidly and while some oats will be short, present indications are that the heads will fill well and the yield will be much better than we hoped a few weeks ago.

MOISTURE: The following table indicates the rainfall, by districts, from April 1st through June 28th, compared with the normal rainfall for the months of April, May and June:

	<u>1 9 4 8</u>		<u>NORMAL</u>	
Iowa (North)	9.88	Inches.....	11.53	Inches
Iowa (South)	7.28	"	11.49	"
Wisconsin	6.93	"	11.34	"
Illinois (North)	8.94	"	11.03	"
Minnesota (South)	7.53	"	10.03	"
No. Dakota (East)	7.29	"	7.81	"
So. Dakota (East)	9.12	"	9.05	"
So. Dakota (West)	9.22	"	8.17	"
Nebraska (East)	6.83	"	11.06	"
Nebraska (West)	6.54	"	7.85	"

Of the above, from two to four inches have been received during the past two weeks. This year's record is better than it looks. The moisture has practically all been absorbed by the soil while normally a considerable part of the May-June rainfall comes in the form of "gushers" and there is much runoff. Showers since June 26th have increased the total in all districts.

It may be that our 30 day drought from mid-May to mid-June will prove to be the dry part of this year. Should showers continue to be reasonably well distributed throughout the next two months we would have a bumper year.

One of the last areas to enjoy a general rain was the northern parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The drought became so serious in this area that many forest fires were started and for a time tourists were banned from entering the national forests because of cigarette hazards.

MOISTURE Duluth, one of the driest spots, received two and two-thirds inches
(Cont'd) on the night of June 22nd.

The range areas in Wyoming were very dry until June 20th. In some sections the cattlemen feared they would have to start shipping in early July. A statewide rain during the week of June 21st to 25th helped the situation immensely.

TEMPERATURE: Very variable. Some unseasonably warm days with rather strong south winds and some below normal periods. Temperatures up to 108 degrees reported from Kansas on June 22nd.

CORN: In the main prospects wonderful with the crop much further along than usual. Many fields in Iowa knee high by June 20th and most of the corn will be well beyond this stage by July 4th. Absence of the usual excess rain in late May and early June permitted fields to be cultivated at the right time and weeds were effectively cleared. Rapid growth of plants permitted cultivation at earlier date than usual. Many fields "laid by" prior to June 20th. Farmer located north of Eagle Grove, Iowa, when interviewed on June 24th, remarked that in only one year of the forty which he had been on the same farm, had the corn been as large.

There is a large acreage of corn. At this writing it is in A-1 condition and if we get a good distribution of rainfall during July and August we will produce a record crop. The ideal amount of rainfall during these two months is a shower of approximately one inch each week.

A few fields in some areas replanted on account of cutworm damage and, in some cases on late plowing the prolonged drought resulted in poor germination.

WINTER This crop practically "made" in our territory. The rains came
WHEAT: in time to help finish filling. Yield better than thought possible a month ago. Very promising crop in northwestern Nebraska along our line. Poor crop to the south where summer fallow practiced rather largely and where a large yield has been obtained each year during the past eight. Too much rain delaying harvest in states to the south of Nebraska.

SPRING Crop recovered rapidly from a slow start due to drought.
WHEAT: Favorable weather in the next few weeks could result in a big crop.

OATS: This crop was badly punished during the drought. Even so, there has been a good recovery since the rains started. Straws have increased in height and the heads are filling well. Clinton oats have displayed a tremendous tenacity. They certainly have "what it takes" and have staged a wonderful comeback. There will be some 80 to 100 bushel yields in much of our territory.

FLAX: Outlook for this crop favorable. Most fields free of weeds and of uniform stand. Southern Minnesota and northern Iowa fields in bloom June 23rd, with few exceptions. Good average yield anticipated.

ALFALFA: First cutting somewhat light in most non-irrigated sections. Early cut hay harvested in fine condition before the rains. Some late cuttings noted in windrows in the Sioux Falls, S.D. area June 22nd. Owners reported they had turned the windrows at least half a dozen times but showers came just about the time the hay was ready to be put up. Considerable part of the first cutting dehydrated in Nebraska and parts of western Iowa. Quality of this product splendid. Second crop will be lighter than usual.

CANNING CROPS: Early peas held back by dry weather but greatly improved in recent weeks. Late crops giving much promise. Sweet corn and other crops coming rapidly. Canning of peas well under way in Rochelle-DeKalb area on June 24th.

PASTURES: Seriously retarded by dry weather but staging a rapid recovery. Wonderful year to discover the value of improved pasture grasses. Brome grass mixtures have produced splendid feed and possessed a much greater carrying capacity than blue grass. Shortage of pasture in dairy districts took some of the enthusiasm out of the^MJune-National Dairy Month^Mcelebration.

Ranges in especially good shape in South Dakota. Dry early in the Sand Hills of Nebraska and in Wyoming acutely dry up to arrival of general rains last week in June.

LIVESTOCK: Spring pig crop very satisfactory. Litters large and even and pigs developing rapidly. Percentage of loss light. There will be ample pigs to provide bacon for the nation.

A Hamilton County, Iowa farmer weaned 814 pigs from 103 sows. This operation on a 200 acre farm. Throughout the Corn Belt we have many of the master hog men of the nation.

Prices have advanced rapidly on beef cattle. Acute shortage of long fed cattle coupled with tremendous demands.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Splendid, soaking rains at this season of the year bring smiles to all of us. It causes us to realize more than ever that the production of our fields and meadows determine what we will have to eat next winter. Crops in various stages of maturity will constitute human food, either directly or in the form of animal products.

Iowa crops at this time are ahead of those in northern Illinois. Last year the opposite was the case. Cool weather in the proximity of Lake Michigan, together with shortage of moisture, caused this condition.

Pastures in many cases were getting to the danger point when the rains started. One central Iowa farmer had turned his cattle on one end of an oat field. An electric fence made this a rather simple operation. On June 25th the balance of the oat field looked good for 75 bushel per acre. This put the cattle on pretty expensive pasture, especially considering that the oats were getting woody and many of the straws being trampled.

Door County, Wisconsin, gives promise of the best cherry crop in its history. Few people realize the intensity with which cherry production is carried out in this county, which protrudes like a thumb into Lake Michigan from the eastern shore of Wisconsin. There are nearly one million cherry trees in the county, more than in any other county in the United States. Two-thirds of these are in three townships. This year's crop is estimated at thirty four million pounds, or one-fifth of the entire sour cherry crop of the United States.

A central Iowa farmer paid \$22.00 cwt. for a load of dry cows at Missouri River market on June 21st. These cows weighed 900 pounds each and cost, in round figures, \$200.00. He expected to turn them onto Brome Grass then run them in stalk fields this fall. This is probably the highest price ever paid for a load of stock cows. This man has 35 acres of knee-high Brome Grass and stated that it made him nervous to look at the grass with no cattle on it. Here's hoping it doesn't eventually make him more nervous to look at the cows. A year ago thousands of top quality 600 to 650 pound yearling steers from the southwest went into Iowa feed lots in April and May. On an average, the price was \$21.00 cwt. Many people thought these cattle would lose money; however, most of them sold as finished beefs last winter at \$10.00 cwt. more than they had cost. Who knows what is going to happen

Reports from the Pacific Northwest indicate a rather backward fruit season due to cool weather. Crops of most varieties below last year.

We are entering the crucial period for row crops such as corn, soy beans and potatoes. Fortunately the new, improved varieties which the plant breeders have made available to us can thrive under conditions which would have seriously injured their predecessors a few years ago.

Reports from the Red River Valley of South Dakota-Minnesota indicate that recent rains were highly beneficial to crop. Early spring floods in this area delayed ground preparation and planting of crops. Several weeks of drought followed and when the June rains started everybody was happy. Potatoes some what backward but coming back nicely.

America is walking on stilts. The price of everything we sell and everything we buy at high levels. An old red cow at a Missouri River market was recently noted enroute to the scale with a \$16.25 cwt. ticket on her. She looked to be 15 years old and probably weighed 900 pounds. \$16.25 is quite a price and the products derived from this animal must sell at a high level.

Don't miss the Railroad Fair. It opens July 20th in Burnham Park on Chicago's lake front and remains until September 7th. Be sure to see the replica of the first depot built 100 years ago by the C&NW Railway System and the little old Pioneer, the first locomotive to operate out of what is now the leading railroad center of the world - Chicago.

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From: H. J. GRAMLICH
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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RY. SYSTEM
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

AUG 13 1948

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 3
Number 5

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
August 1, 1948

July has been a favorable month. Generous rains received in most of the Corn Belt. Parts of Wisconsin are still dry. Wyoming had a dry spring. Received a general rain the last week in June and since then has been quite dry. Ranges there are short.

The so-called "High Plains" states have been "in the money", so far as rain is concerned, during the past six months. Kansas has had a lot of it. Since January 1st a total of 19 inches received there. Nebraska, South Dakota and much of North Dakota have also fared well.

Rainfall received over the principal corn Belt area during the first seven months of 1948 has been under normal. In most regions this ranges from two to three inches; however, practically all that has fallen has soaked in and the net amount entering the soil has exceeded that of an average year when there is a great deal of run-off during late May and early June storms.

Crops have developed splendidly and we enter August with outstanding prospects for corn, soy beans, potatoes and sugar beets. We have harvested, or are in process of harvesting, very good grain crops.

ALL-TIME RECORD CORN CROP
JUST AROUND THE
CORNER

The corn crop of the United States gives every indication of reaching 3,500,000,000 bushel, an increase of approximately 171,000,000 bushel over the Government's July 1st estimate. Iowa, which normally produces one-fifth of the nation's corn looks good for 675,000,000 bushel, an increase of 50,000,000 bushel over the July 1st estimate.

The following table indicates possible yield of 1,949,000,000 bushel for the six major corn-producing states which we serve. This information is based on reports which we have received from over our territory. The estimated yield is based on occurrence of timely showers during the next three weeks.

	GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE	NORTH WESTERN ESTIMATE
	July 1st	August 1st
IOWA	624,602,000 Bu.	675,000,000 Bu.
ILLINOIS	497,420,000 Bu.	533,000,000 Bu.
MINNESOTA	238,619,000 Bu.	254,000,000 Bu.
NEBRASKA	227,840,000 Bu.	242,000,000 Bu.
SOUTH DAKOTA	121,836,000 Bu.	133,000,000 Bu.
WISCONSIN	114,525,000 Bu.	112,000,000 Bu.
U. S.	3,328,862,000 Bu.	3,500,000,000 Bu.

The above named states normally produce 55% of the national crop.

CORN:(Cont'd)

Corn progressed by "leaps and bounds" during July. The crop is at least two weeks ahead of last year and one week ahead of normal. Ears are setting under very favorable conditions. Taking into consideration the splendid stand; freedom of fields from weeds and the advanced stage of development, we feel that an all-time record production will be made, providing showers come properly distributed during the next three weeks. There is a very large corn acreage, practically all of which is hybrid and this is capable of standing considerable abuse. Much spraying of corn fields for grasshoppers and corn ear worms.

OATS:

Oats have proven to be the "dark horse" crop of the year. The prolonged May-June drought just about whipped the crop; however, mid-June rains and favorable weather entered the picture and a surprisingly good oat yield is being obtained even though the straw is shorter than usual. A large percentage of the crop in Illinois and Iowa is of the Clinton variety. Most high yields reported from fields of these and several other Bond Cross varieties. Ninety bushel yields fairly numerous and sixty to seventy bushels quite common. One field, 160 acres, near Marshalltown, Iowa, estimated to make seventy bushel. Large part of the crop cut with swathers, and combined out of the windrow. This minimized danger from storms, permitted immature heads to ripen and in some areas minimized grasshopper damage.

WINTERWHEAT:

Crop better than anticipated. Twenty-five to thirty bushel yields quite common. Splendid crop in northwestern Nebraska and southwestern South Dakota. On July 26th report received of yield of sixty-three bushel of sixty-four pound test on rather large field near Whitney in extreme northwest corner of Nebraska.

SPRINGWHEAT:

This crop was at the critical stage during the extreme heat week of July 12th. Yield cut some and some shriveled grain.

BARLEY:

Quality of grain good. Some fields lodged during early July storms. This especially true in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Red River Valley. New varieties standing nicely and yielding well.

FLAX:

Prospects materially above July 1st estimate. Crop Especially promising in South Dakota. Some fields insured on basis of thirty bushel per acre. Minnesota prospects equally good other than territory adjacent to the twin cities where drought a factor.

SOYBEANS:

Soy beans are in good condition. Plants have grown remarkably fast. Fields are clean and prospects point to a very high yield. This is true not only in Illinois and Iowa but also across southern Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and eastern Nebraska.

POTATOES:

Crop well advanced. Spraying being done at regular intervals. Pump irrigation used in many northern Wisconsin regions. Prospects wonderful in the Watertown-Clark area of South Dakota. Ample moisture in the Red River Valley and prospects splendid. Riverton, Wyoming area in good shape. Racine, Wisconsin digging started mid-July.

AUGUST 1, 1948

SUGAR Following many early season handicaps, this crop has developed quite satisfactorily and gives promise of fine yield on a reduced acreage. BEETS: Plants large and ready to develop roots. Normally, this occurs largely during August and September. Some Red River Valley beets expected to make 16 ton per acre. Southern Minnesota, northern Iowa and eastern Wisconsin areas have fields which should do likewise.

HAY: Crop considerably below normal, especially in regions where spring rainfall was light. Most hay is made in late spring and early summer. Hay meadows hold heavy rains much better than other crops and profit from them in seasons when they are prevalent. Hay crop especially short in northern Wisconsin, eastern Minnesota and Iowa, where red clover seeding killed out last winter. Nebraska irrigated alfalfa crop heavy. Wild hay in northern part of state heavy. Most of the 38 dehydrating plants in Dawson County were in operation on Sunday, July 25th. Pastures spotted. Quite good in regions where rainfall abundant. Poor, in the main, in Wisconsin, northern Illinois and Wyoming. Grass stunted by May-June dry spell.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Growing season of 1948 started out with a scare. By June 10th we felt we were in for an old-time drought year. Since then, a fairly good distribution of rains has changed the dismal outlook into what may prove to be a record year. While we have had some prolonged hot spells we have, thus far, encountered no hot winds.

Railroads have done a masterful job of handling the big wheat crop. Showers have slowed harvesting and helped solve the transportation problem. Availability of many new box cars also helped.

Three months ago the black loam of the Corn Belt stood waiting for the corn planter. Today these same fields are covered with a "dense forest" of dark green corn plants ranging from seven to ten feet tall. Truly, Nature is wonderful.

Corn is a weather crop. It takes a heap of rain to make a big yield. Don't worry about too much rain injuring corn in August.

The combine is here to stay and apparently the only answer to the acute marketing problem when harvesting is at its peak is to provide more storage space on the farms. Even though the railroads could move the grain as fast as it is harvested, the terminal elevators could not keep up. For instance, Kansas City at one time a few weeks ago had 10,000 cars of wheat on track. Some 17 elevators could unload only 1,300 cars per day. This illustrates what we are up against.

THIS MATERIAL, PREPARED FROM
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND
INCLUDING JULY 27TH, IS FOR
RELEASE A.M. PAPERS JULY 31st
AND THEREAFTER.

SEP 15 1948

From: H. J. GRAMLICH
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS)

THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND
INCLUDING AUGUST 27TH.

Volume 3

Number 6

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

September 1, 1948

WEATHER:

The first half of August was cool and rains were both frequent and heavy in most of the Corn Belt. Since mid-August there has been relatively little rain and temperatures have been exceedingly high. Some hot winds have been experienced in the High Plains states, which have forced the maturity of the corn and, to some extent, affected the yield adversely.

C O R N:

On August 15th every indication pointed to a materially larger corn crop than the August 1st estimate. A 3,600,000,000 bushel crop seemed assured. The past week of hot, dry weather has lowered the yield in places where early August showers were light.

AS THIS IS BEING WRITTEN, AUGUST 27TH, WE ARE
REFRAINING FROM MAKING AN ESTIMATE ON THE CORN
CROP. WE WILL, HOWEVER, MAKE ONE ON SEPTEMBER
FIRST AND SAME WILL BE RELEASED THROUGH THE PRESS.

The hot weather came too late to seriously injure the corn. Opinion is divided as to the extent of injury. The quality of the corn has actually been improved by the heat in regions where there was abundant moisture.

The northeastern quarter of Iowa has received very little August moisture and corn has been hurt rather severely in considerable of that area.

We have a big crop virtually "made". The quality will be excellent. Farmers are already feeding corn in many sections. Cattle feeders in Iowa have been field chopping corn for fattening cattle for the past week.

Few people realize that it takes 20 inches of moisture to make a 100 bushel crop and that nearly all of this is used by the plant in July and August. The plant must draw considerable from the reserves in the soil to supplement the rain which falls. Had the weather man given us one or two additional good showers between the 20th and 25th of August we would have had a perfect corn-maturing set-up.

SOY
BEANS:

This crop is in splendid shape. Summer rains were timely and flowering and podding of the plants has been good. Vines are exceptionally large and thrifty. This comparatively new crop for the Corn Belt gives promise of making a record yield. The August 1st estimate of 205,066,000 bushel can be raised by 10,000,000 bushel.

SMALLGRAINS:

The oat harvest is completed with yields ahead of expectations. Quite a number of 70 to 100 bushel fields reported. Quality splendid. Most samples weighing over 34 pounds. Only major disappointments were experienced where old, disease-susceptible varieties were used.

Thrashing of spring grains in South Dakota, Minnesota, northeast Nebraska and northwest Iowa was delayed the greater part of a month by damp weather. Quality of grain damaged to some extent.

POTATOES:

Making a very high yield. Quality very good other than where late blight a factor. Digging in Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota areas well under way.

PASTURES:

Poor. This has been an off-year for grass. Dry May-June period stunted growth. Cattle have received supplemental feeding in most areas of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa during the past month. Ranges in South Dakota and western Nebraska continue good. Wyoming exceptionally dry.

LIVESTOCK:

Spring pigs coming along splendidly. Early marketings already started. Very few "piggy" sows marketed. Expect large number of fall pigs on farms.

Runs of range cattle getting under way. Many big grass steers going to the country for short feed at \$30.00 to \$32.00 cwt. Anticipate heavy movement of range stock in September. Lack of abundant pasture and shortage of hay in Iowa will necessitate starting on new corn fodder early.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Many are expressing fear as to how the large corn crop will be handled. Doubtful if this will be much of a problem. Corn cribs are pretty well emptied. Temporary cribs can be built for overflow. Ear corn which is put in good cribs can be held for a long period of time. In 1936 a Nebraska farmer sold a crib of corn which he had held for 18 years. Once ear corn is thoroughly dried there is no problem regarding its keeping for a long time in a good crib. It is the easiest of all grains to store.

Distribution of rainfall is all-important. We have in the Corn Belt received less than normal rainfall during the growing season, yet we have wonderful crops. The rains came as needed and in most instances moisture soaked into the ground and relatively few floods have been experienced.

Most fall plowing in the Winter Wheat belt finished early and wonderful seed beds are ready. Fall plowing for next year's corn under way at this time. Tractors proving their value during the period of extreme heat and resulting dry top soil.

There has been considerable hail. This, in most instances, has affected rather small areas. It creates a serious problem where it falls; however, the effect on the overall picture is rather limited.

We have had a series of good years. The weatherman is beginning to show signs of balking. It might be well to have at least one crib of good, old corn as a factor of safety.

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) THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM
) REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND
) INCLUDING SEPTEMBER 29TH.

Volume 3
 Number 7

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
 October 1st, 1948

WEATHER:

September was a warm month, with day temperatures ranging about five degrees above normal. Good rains were received the last two days of August and the first week in September. From then until the last week of the month most of our territory was dry.

The rains came in time to be of tremendous help to the maturing corn crop. The weather since has been almost ideal for this and the crop has matured in wonderful condition.

Top soil is again dry, and a good "soaker" would be beneficial. This is the time of year when moisture reserves should be built up. To a considerable extent, crops are "made" on Fall accumulation of moisture of the year previous.

C O R N:

August heat damage not as severe as first estimated. Remarkable vitality of hybrid corn a big factor. Also, crops well advanced when heat hit. Late August and early September rains aided appreciably.

We estimate the national corn crop at 3,550,000,000 bushel. This is approximately 21,000,000 bushel above the September 1st federal estimate of 3,528,815,000 bushel and is in line with our estimate of September 15th.

Harvesting of the crop to date seems to substantiate the above estimate. Hybrid corn withstood the punishment of a summer in which there were three spells when pessimists were ready to give up. The farmer has a great friend in this corn of remarkably high vitality.

The unusually high mid-September temperatures, with considerable wind and low humidity, ripened the crop remarkably well. It is probably the driest it has ever been on October 1st. No appreciable frost has been received and acreage that would be hurt by one is nil. New corn has been coming to market for some little time from southern Indiana, Missouri and Kansas.

At Lawrence, Kansas, elevator started buying ear corn on September 20th. By September 23rd had shelled and shipped three cars with moisture content of 14, 14.3 and 14.5 percent. None of this corn had been artificially dried.

FIRST CAR OF NEW NEBRASKA CORN RECEIVED AT OMAHA MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH. THIS WAS LOADED AT TEKAMAH, ON THE CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN, FORTY MILES NORTH. GRADED NO. 5, YELLOW. CONTAINED 20.2% MOISTURE TEST WEIGHT 54 POUNDS. NO DAMAGED GRAIN.

The next day a car was received from the neighboring town of Herman.

C O R N:
(Cont'd)

Never before in the history of Omaha Market has new Nebraska corn been received in month of September. Usually it is mid-October or later

Quite a few new permanent corn cribs have been constructed during the past few months. Many temporary cribs in readiness to help take care of the big crop. Farmers know that ear corn is easy to hold, especially in the western half of the Corn Belt. An instance is on record in eastern Nebraska of a crib of corn having been held 18 years (1918-1936) with no appreciable deterioration.

SOY BEANS:

September was an ideal month for maturing soy beans. First reports of combining in Illinois in mid-September. Many fields of early beans now combined. Quality good. Beans a little small and yield of early fields somewhat below expectations. Later fields give promise of considerable heavier yield. Crop in Iowa hurt some by the extreme August heat. Average yields of 22 bushel per acre expected.

WINTER WHEAT:

In most primary winter wheat areas farmers were able to get their plowing done early when the soil was moist and a very satisfactory job resulted. These fields were later prepared under almost ideal conditions. Just the opposite to last year. Extreme heat of late August and September, together with absence of sufficient rain in some places, finds the top soil dry in spots. Most planting completed in western Nebraska and Kansas by mid-month. Sowing about finished in other areas. Illinois wheat area received good rains on the 20th and 21st and the wheat was put into the ground following fly-free date under exceedingly satisfactory conditions. Crop making good start in Kansas-Oklahoma-Texas area and there should be considerable winter and early spring pasture providing reasonable amount of moisture received in next 60 days.

POTATOES:

Harvest well along. Wisconsin crop moved exceptionally early. Yield very heavy. Similar conditions in South Dakota. Reports from Red River Valley indicate curtailment of yield by weather conditions in late summer.

SUGAR BEETS:

September rains aided crop in northern Illinois and Wisconsin areas where no irrigation available. September a very favorable month for beets in most of the irrigated valleys of the west and tonnage indications are satisfactory.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

On September 23rd December corn option listed at \$1.40 per bushel. A year ago on the same date \$2.18, a drop of 78% per bushel or 36%. Soy beans have also taken a long ride on "skid row". Farmers are hoping that things which they buy will also become less expensive as these agricultural prices adjust themselves. Some evidence of food prices working downward in retail outlets.

Speaking of wet corn. In 1944 most corn was too wet to ship in November. For instance, Supt. Hodgson of the Waseca, Minnesota Experiment Station had hybrids containing 69% moisture. It required 10 days at a temperature of 110° to dry these. Incidentally, he got a 96% germination.

NOV 9 1948

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
 This material prepared from
 reports received up to and
 including October 25th.

Volume 3
 Number 8

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
 November 1st, 1948

OUR NOVEMBER FIRST CORN CROP ESTIMATE - -

3,600,000,000 BUSHEL ! ! !

C O R N: Corn is running ahead of expectations. Officially, it was estimated at 3,567,955,000 bushel on October 1st. It will, unquestionably, exceed this figure. We are placing our November 1st estimate at 3,600,000,000 bushel, and would not be surprised to see it go ahead of this figure.

Corn is proving to be the "miracle crop" in every sense of the word. Three times during the growing season we were dubious about the outcome of the crop because of dry spells, the last of these being associated with three weeks of abnormally high temperatures in August. In spite of all this we are harvesting by far the best crop of corn we have ever produced.

Yields above 100 bushel per acre have been reported, from all of our states. They are quite commonplace in Illinois and Iowa. Ten-acre test plots are making 150 bushel and a few instances of 200 bushel yields have been reported. Thus far, these are confined to Illinois and Iowa.

The crop matured perfectly prior to the killing freeze of October 17-18. Considerable picking ahead of this freeze and the corn dry enough to shell and ship. Typical of reports pertaining to early harvesting we quote from a letter received from Superior, Nebraska under date of October 18th: "Corn picking in this area began late in September which is the earliest we can recall. Corn is unusually dry, moisture tests ranging from 7% to 14%. The yields are quite good. Acreage larger than normal and as a result this will be the largest corn crop ever raised in this territory". Incidentally, Superior is in the heart of that southern Nebraska district which was thought to have been seriously hurt by the August drought.

Picking is on in full force. Iowa estimated to be half through. Some farmers with comparatively small acreage already finished. Corn picking with a modern two-row machine takes place at almost lightning speed. At Bloomington, Illinois, one picker turned out 2,276 bushel from a 19 acre field on October 19th. This was the equivalent of one month's hand picking for an expert husker under the old method.

SOY BEANS: Harvesting practically completed. Estimated during October to have been picked at a rate of 4,000 carloads per day. One thousand cars received on the public markets on a number of days, these in addition to beans sent direct to milling points and to those stored in country and farm elevators. Yields in major producing sections reported very good. Slightly above estimate. Many 25 to 30 bushel areas and some 40 bushel yields reported.

SUGAR BEETS: Harvesting progressing rapidly. In irrigated areas yield varies, depending on stand. Unfavorable germination weather produced many fields with uneven stands and the toll is obvious at this time. Dry weather in non-irrigated sections responsible for curtailed crop. Sugar content of beets running high. Beet farmers looking forward to a splendid year in livestock feeding.

POTATOES: Digging completed. Crop proving to be enormous. One Langlade County, Wisconsin grower averaged 500 bushel per acre on 400 acres. Six hundred bushel yields quite common, especially in areas where sprinkler irrigation was used. General use of DDT was responsible in part for the big crop. Vines remained green very late. A field of Pontiacs being dug on October 8th at Ainsworth, Nebraska, had vines as green as mid-summer and 30 inches high.

BEANS: Dry bean harvest about completed. Large acreage on most irrigated land in western Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota. Yields of 2,000 to 2,500 pounds per acre quite common.

WEATHER: October has been a dry month. While this has facilitated harvesting of beans, corn and sugar beets, it has not been conducive to the maximum development of the newly seeded winter wheat and rye. A good two-day "soaker" would be a wonderful thing at this point from the standpoint of getting fall seeded crops well set for the winter and storing reserve moisture for next year's crops.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

What are we going to do with the big grain crop? Normally, about 85% of the corn crop never leaves the area in which it is produced. It is the basic feed in the production of all meat and most other animal products. In the case of beef cattle, most of the animals are produced under range conditions in the west and then shipped into the Corn Belt for fattening. A very heavy movement of this type has been under way for the past two months. Some heavy cattle which went into the Corn Belt feed lots in August have already been marketed.

It takes quite awhile to actually increase numbers of beef cattle. A heifer is not bred until she is two years old and her steer calf is not ready to market until at least two years from that date. In other words, it takes about four years from the time a heifer calf is dropped until her off-spring reaches market as a finished baby beef.

The story with hogs is materially different. A six-month old sow bred November 1st, will produce a litter on Washington's Birthday. By September 1st this litter will represent approximately one ton of pork. In other words, the total lapse of time from the birth of the gilt until her ton litter is ready to market is less than one year and four months.

A ewe is mated when two years old and her lamb, which is dropped five months later, reaches market by the time she is six to eight months old.

The real possibility for rapid increase in animal units is poultry. When it became evident that we would have a good corn crop, hatchery men started increasing summer hatchings. Eggs which were put in the incubator on August 1st produced chicks three weeks later. These will be ready for our Christmas dinner.

Commercial hatchings in September were 31% larger than a year ago. 44,500,000 birds compared with 34,000,000. This is a clearcut illustration of how quickly the picture starts to change when a plentiful supply of feed becomes available.

Increasing animal units is a biological process which takes time. We are just emerging from a year of very short corn and feed supplies. The meat volume is increasing but it will take some time to get back to a normal basis.

With five inches below normal rainfall we have produced the largest crop ever raised. Such rain as we have received during the growing season came at the right time and sufficiently slow to soak in. Low spots in corn and soy bean fields which a year ago were lakes really never did get wet this summer. Today they are "dry as a bone". These dry pot holes tell a story which carries with it a word of caution. We have had eight very good crop years in a row. History usually repeats itself. It probably would be well to do some long distance planning and to be in position to carry through on a satisfactory basis should we have one or two sub-normal moisture years.

We do not mean to be pessimistic but merely to recommend a little sober thinking along with wishful hoping.

This has been a grand crop year. We have much for which to be thankful. Doing things the American way is paying dividends. Our scientists brought hybrid corn to the people of this country. It was the vitality of this which carried the crop through the dry spells and emerged with the big yields. Liming the soil, adding fertilizer and using legumes and grasses insures future fertility, especially when the other sound soil conservation practices are used. It takes a lot of fertility out of the soil to produce 100 bushel of corn from a little patch of land 209 feet square.

This is the last crop report of the season. We trust it has proved of some value to you and that we may again number you among our readers when the first report of the 1949 growing season is released on April 1st.

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From: H. J. GRAMLICH
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THE LINK OF THE

JUN 3 1949

Volume 4

Number 1

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

CROP REPORT

April 1, 1949

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

The spring, to date, has been backward. We have had a series of spells of variable weather. A few warm days, then a number of cold ones; however, we did have enough warm weather in late February and early March to get rid of a big portion of the snow in the blizzard areas of the west.

In the Corn Belt fields have remained muddy and it has been impossible to do the usual amount of early spring work. Frequently a considerable part of the Iowa oat crop is planted by April 1st. This year the farmers are still waiting for the fields to dry enough for them to get started. We used to worry if the oat crop wasn't seeded early; however, with new disease- and heat-resistant varieties, the matter of a week or two difference in planting time seems to have very little effect on the final yield.

WINTER

WHEAT:

This crop is in splendid condition. The Great Plains of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas have had an abundance of winter moisture and the same can be said for most of the winter wheat areas of Nebraska and South Dakota. There is a strip embodying eastern Colorado and extreme western Nebraska which could use more moisture; however, at this writing the wheat crop gives promise of being a bumper one. An ideal April for winter wheat includes frequent showers and a minimum of wind.

There were 61,370,000 acres seeded to winter wheat last fall, with an anticipated spring wheat seeding of 20,300,000 acres making a total of 81,670,000 acres. This is 5% above the 1948 acreage and 4% above the previous all-time record acreage in 1947. This totaled 78,169,000 acres. From present indications there will be a carry-over of 300,000,000 bushel of old wheat.

IRRIGATION

WATER:

There is a huge reserve of water in irrigation reservoirs and high mountain areas. This insures ample water in the numerous irrigation valleys throughout the west. Condition of the top soil is very good in most western areas.

The series of blizzards in Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota which extended through January and February resulted in snow drifts, in many cases 30 feet deep. Resultant publicity caused many people to think there would be an abundance of moisture to produce good crops. Ironically, blizzards pile snow deep in some places and sweep it bare in others. A seven inch wet snow which fell across eastern Wyoming on the last day of February and melted gradually a few days later did more good than the entire winter's accumulation of erratically distributed blizzard moisture.

W0000 Early spring predictions of bad floods have not materialized. The alternate warm and cold spells in the Corn Belt tended to check the rapid run-off after thawing had started. Considerable damage was done in some places when the ice on streams broke up and formed dams at bridges, thus causing large bodies of back water to form.

A series of chinook winds in late February which took day-time temperatures into the sixties in much of the blizzard area, caused a rather rapid disappearance of the snow. This water, to a great extent, was absorbed by the soil.

AND There is a tremendous amount of the 1948 corn crop still stored on farms. Included in this is the corn which has been sealed CORN to the Government. In Iowa local authorities estimate the sealings as of April 1st at 125,000,000 bushel and anticipate a grand total of 150,000,000 bushel when contracting terminates on June 30th. Up to March 1st 92,000,000 bushel had been sealed. In Illinois on that date 30,000,000 bushel were under seal.

From present indications, by the time the sealing of corn terminates in June some one-third to one-half billion bushel will be signed up. These contracts terminate September 1st and should the 1949 crop develop into a large one, farmers will be urging the Government to move their old corn promptly. Facilities for storing shelled corn locally in the communities are very limited. The Government owns sufficient bins in Iowa to temporarily store 25,000,000 bushel of shelled corn.

LIVL- Livestock in the blizzard areas came through the storms better AND than anticipated. Losses were spotty. A trip through the Sand Hills area of Nebraska and through western South Dakota on March 5th and 6th disclosed many things of interest. New calves were arriving and, in most cases, looked to be husky. Quite a few new lambs in small flocks were also evident. Range livestock is very hardy. It always leads a rugged existence and can meet adverse conditions pretty well. Losses in Wyoming were higher than in other states due to the animals having entered the winter in rather poor condition following the droughty pasture season of 1948.

Spring pigs are arriving in fine condition. Reports indicate large litters and good results in saving them.

Poultry hatchings very heavy. January and February figures 50% above a year ago. The rapidity with which the poultry reaches table stage is a big factor in helping alleviate meat scarcity. Many three pound birds marketed when three months old.

COMMERCIAL This is the season when commercial fertilizer is being spread FERTILIZER on the land. We used to think that fertilizer was not necessary where we had an abundance of livestock. Since then we have learned that we can help our agricultural production to a great extent by using commercial fertilizer.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER: At the turn of the century fertilizer was used almost exclusively in the wornout eastern and southeastern sections of the country. Two million ton per year were distributed. (Cont'd) Now sixteen million ton are used annually and large quantities are placed on the highly fertile soil of the Corn Belt and the irrigated valleys of the west. Scarcely a region but what uses a large amount of fertilizer, which results in quickened germination, early growth of the plant, and the increased yield much more than pays the bill.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

This is our first crop report of the year. In it much is said about blizzards. Last year our first report talked of the big drought in California. Blizzards are in reality winds carrying snow in a horizontal direction at a terrific speed. They are tough on man and animal alike but normally have no adverse affect on the next crop year.

Nature is awakening. Green grass in pasture, meadow and lawn, gives promise that winter is ended and a new crop year is at hand. All about we see ewes with their lambs, sows with little pigs and cows with husky calves. All seem to indicate that spring is here. The only thing missing is the frisky colt of yesteryear. Farmers in the fields plowing, disking, tiling and spreading fertilizer symbolize the true meaning of spring.

Word from Texas telling of early flax fields in bloom remind us that the growing season in the United States moves northward with regularity and that we will have growing things in the matter of a few weeks. Up on the Canadian border where snow banks and zero weather still prevail growing things will be evident in another month.

"BLIZZINS" is a word of our own coining. It refers to farm and ranch folks who were shut in through the blizzards. Many of these folks remained on their home property for several months, through no fault of their own. One farm wife in northeastern Nebraska writes a most interesting story of her experiences which started November 17th and did not end until late February. Three days before Xmas a road was temporarily opened and the men of the family were able to get to town in a bobsled. That night high winds again blocked the highways and isolation continued for another two months. The folks on this farm certainly could vouch for the meaning of the words in the song "Home on the Range". They definitely were there. The wife referred to above writes that it got to a point where she could not tell whether it was yesterday, today or tomorrow.

We used to worry about spring such as this one when farm work was delayed. No cause for such worry today. Tractors have solved this problem for us. When the soil becomes right tractors start at the break of day and operate until dark without stopping. If need be they can run all night. No such thing as a noon feed of oats or a rest period for the "iron horse". A few days enforced idleness during the rainy spell does not leave him soft. The tractor has given the farmer a flexibility which is imperative in this modern age.

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Volume 4
Number 2

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
May 1st, 1949

COME ON SUMMER - - - WE ARE READY!!!!

The Corn Belt enters May under exceedingly promising circumstances. Not in recent years has there been such a favorable combination of conditions. Farmers have their work well in hand and are standing in readiness with this slogan - - "Come on Summer - we are ready."

April has been cool and moist; however, field work in most of our territory has been pretty well taken care of due to large power units and ample machinery available.

There was some delay in oat seeding, especially in Nebraska; however, most of the other areas got their crop in at about the usual time. In Iowa three million acres were planted by April 15th and only 350,000 acres remained to be seeded. The fields are green and prospects for a favorable stand are good.

Last year we worried through a dry, windy April. This year we have a nice, damp, pliable seed bed and all we need is favorable weather to carry the crops forward.

Plowing for corn and soy beans is well along, in fact an unusually large acreage was fall plowed and has required only a limited working this spring. Planting in most major corn-producing areas of Iowa and Illinois will be under way within a week.

One can find a wide variety of activity within a small area. On April 25th in Kane County, Illinois, two corn pickers were at work on a belated job of husking. Across the road a beautiful stand of oats was already in evidence. In the next field a tractor plow was busily turning under sweet clover sod preparatory to planting corn. A four inch spring growth was going to add green manure to the soil. The next field was a pasture. A good growth of grass and cattle contentedly grazing. This variety of farm operations noted within a span of three adjoining farms could have been duplicated the country over with the possible exception that the corn huskers would be missing.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop continues very promising with the exception of the flat territory in south central Nebraska where an excess of water has resulted in very serious damage with much replanting to other grains. The Missouri Valley area in western Iowa also injured. The crop throughout the greater winter wheat belt looks wonderful. Kansas gives promise of a 300,000,000 bushel crop.

GRAIN PRICES: Wheat is selling as high as a year ago; however, corn is two-thirds of last year's price and oats only one-half.

GRAIN ON FARMS: As a result of the large crops of corn and other grains in 1948 and somewhat reduced number of grain consuming animals, there is an exceptionally large amount of grain on farms as of April 1st:

U.S. FARM STOCKS OF GRAIN - APRIL 1st.			
GRAIN	1 9 4 9	1 9 4 8	INC. OR DEC.
Wheat	239,315,000 Bu.	256,533,000 Bu.	17,218,000 Dec.
Corn	1,776,220,000 Bu.	849,198,000 Bu.	927,022,000 Inc.
Oats	577,945,000 Bu.	410,644,000 Bu.	167,301,000 Inc.

April 27th estimates of corn under seal to the Government are 300,000,000 bushel. Most of this is in five of the states which we serve - Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Iowa leads with 120,000,000 Bushel.

GRASSES: The cool spring resulted in some delay in grass development. With the turn to warmer temperatures there has been rapid growth of all types of grasses. A herd of Holstein cows were noted on April 26th in a western Illinois field of fall seeded rye. This was almost up to their knees and provided a wealth of pasture. With an abundance of moisture in most of the large range areas from the late, wet snows, there should be a splendid growth of grass.

SPRING PIG CROP: There is a large crop of spring pigs. With ample supplies of corn and other feeds available farmers bred a large number of sows and in the main have had very good results with spring farrowings. A rather drastic reduction in hog prices in recent weeks has brought the average down to a point little more than the OPA levels existing during the war.

CATTLE ON FEED: While the number of cattle on feed is considerably higher than last year the comparison with the number usually on feed at this time makes it doubtful that there will be a surplus of corn-fed beef. On May 1st, 1948, thousands of feed lots were empty due to the uncertain beef outlook and the abnormally high price of corn.

Goodly number of yearling steers from the southwest are coming into the territory. Most of these weigh around six hundred pounds. They are long-haired and thin. They should make a splendid growth on grass and fatten into prime beef with the supplemental corn they will receive. There is a minimum of labor and risk involved in producing beef on grass. Fertilizer is scattered over the fields and generally speaking fat animals are offered for sale when there is a good demand for corn-fed beef.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Sometimes a cool, wet spring is a forerunner of a dry, hot summer. Let's hope this will not prove to be the case in 1949.

On April 15th not a tractor was stirring in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota. Still too wet from late snows. Even with the delay there is little cause to worry, in that fertile, far north region, which has established a wonderful reputation as a producer of potatoes and other short season crops.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

On April 1st the corn in all positions totaled 1,833,325,000 bushel, practically one billion bushel more than the 882,557,000 bushel of the previous year and one-half billion bushel more than the 1,358,098,000 bushel of two years ago. This is an all-time record carry-over of corn for April 1st. The fact that it is nearly all on farms and that some 300,000,000 bushel are sealed to the Government presents some problems in connection with storage.

The large carry-over of 576,000,000 bushel of wheat is 100,000,000 bushel above that of a year ago and 270,000,000 bushel above two years ago.

Incidentally, the disappearance of wheat during the first three months of 1949 was smaller than in any one of the previous three years.

On April 9th pea planting was under way in the DeKalb-Rochelle area of Northern Illinois. Normally about seventy two days elapse from planting to maturity and three weeks from time the blooms appear until peas are in the can. Planting has continued throughout the month under almost ideal conditions. Wonderful seed beds and enough moisture to start the plants.

Recent observations in Virginia of the one-man and one-mule type of farming furnished quite a contrast to the big tractors and large implements used throughout the Corn Belt.

On a DeKalb County, Illinois farm in Mid-April a man was plowing brome grass and alfalfa sod with a three-bottom plow and roller attached. He was getting more work done than could have been accomplished on the same farm a few years back by four men driving four-horse teams. The one-mule man of the south never could have plowed this sod in a satisfactory manner.

One reason for big crops in recent years is the mastery of man over the elements by virtue of the flexibility he has at his disposal through the big power units. He can catch up in a few days following a delay which under the old scheme of things would have proven ruinous.

The weather man "lit the flame under the tea kettle April 25th." Temperatures soared to 90 over most of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Even Denver in the Rocky Mountain area got up to 85. A few days like this and we will overcome the delays caused by the cool temperatures of early April.

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 4 CROP REPORT
Number 3 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD June 1, 1949

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR IN THE MAKING!!!

We have the "makings" of a wonderful crop year! As of this date the farms of the Corn Belt are in fine shape. The spring has been a little dry in many places and the cool weather, coupled with the dryness, prevented optimum development of early plant growth; however, it gave the farmers a good opportunity to take care of field work. As a result the fields are clean, crops are planted and the rains of the past few days start us off to another bumper crop year.

TEMPERATURES: 1949 has thus far been a year of extremes. It started with the much talked-of blizzards, then, as the spring developed, we had quite a few tornados and considerable windy weather. Temperatures have made a number of sudden shifts from extreme heat to extreme cold and vice versa. There have been several spells of abnormally warm weather; however, the rather protracted periods of below-normal temperatures have predominated.

RAINFALL: Iowa and southern Minnesota remained dry the longest. There are still some places in these two states where more soil "soakers" will be needed soon; however, scarcely an area but what experienced a steady downpour over the week-end May 20-22, and received ample moisture to get things off to a splendid start.

Nebraska, if anything, is too wet, a very unusual condition at this time. As indicated in the table below, Nebraska's rainfall for the month approximates $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, which is well above the normal of 3.98 inches. Most of this has been received in the past two weeks. Columns one and two are comparable four week periods:

	1 9 4 9		1 9 4 8		M A Y
	April 26 thru May 24		April 27 thru May 25		Normal
IOWA (North)	2.50 Inches		2.80 Inches		4.16 Inches
IOWA (South)	2.38 "		2.85 "		3.99 "
NEBR. (East)	4.51 "		1.58 "		3.98 "
NEBR. (West)	4.35 "		1.68 "		2.83 "
S.D. (East)	2.35 "		1.00 "		3.10 "
S.D. (West)	2.11 "		1.74 "		2.93 "
N.D. (East)	2.04 "		.91 "		2.53 "
MINN. (South)	1.38 "		1.25 "		3.48 "
ILL. (No. and Cent)	2.42 "		3.49 "		4.00 "
WISC.	1.82 "		2.94 "		3.67 "

Thus far very few "washy" rains have been experienced. In many areas gentle rains totaling from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches have fallen over 24 hour periods and all this moisture has soaked in - result, up to date, very little "washing" in plowed fields. Winter wheat states to the south of us - i.e. - Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma, have received very heavy rains during May.

CORN: Planting almost completed. Early corn is up and a considerable portion of it already cultivated. Three 2-row cultivators seen in one field near Nevada in Story County, Iowa, on May 24th. Stands are good other than where cut worms have caused damage during cool spells. At this writing there is every indication that 1949 may bring us another bumper crop of corn. Seasonal rainfall will, of course, determine this. Corn uses the maximum of water during July and August and it takes a good rain every week during the growing season to "turn the trick". A large amount of fertilizer was used at the time the crop was planted and this is stimulating early growth.

OATS: Crop a little backward; however, the stand is good and with abundant rainfall it could be very heavy. Some fields being sprayed for weeds.

SOY BEANS: Crop practically all planted with early fields up to a good start.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop is making rapid progress and all indications point to a heavy yield other than in south central Nebraska and western Iowa areas where considerable winter killing was experienced. The first report on early harvesting received from Texas May 23rd. Last year the first report was received May 18th. Excess moisture in the south may complicate harvesting of the crop. Most winter wheat in the northern plains area good.

SPRING WHEAT: Planting almost completed and early fields showing a good start.

ALFALFA: Generally speaking, a heavy crop other than where winter killing a factor. Many fields in western Iowa, especially in the Missouri bottoms, severely injured. Heavy loss in some east central areas of Nebraska. Presumably loss caused by long periods of coverage by ice crust.

In the Platte Valley of western Nebraska, where the January and February blizzards hit hardest, storms of blizzard proportion were taking place as late as March 17th, yet two months later, on May 11th, a trip through the Valley disclosed all of the alfalfa dehydrating plants in full operation handling the heavy growth which had reached cutting stage in the short 60 day period since the last blizzard.

HAY: Abundant rain in most of the wild hay producing areas assure a bumper crop. Elkhorn Valley region and Sand Hills area of Nebraska never had finer prospects. South Dakota also in fine shape. Red Clover acreage throughout our territory very low. Good growth on such fields as there are.

CANNING CROPS: Early peas held back by dry weather of April and early May. With recent rains these should develop very rapidly. A field near Freeport, Illinois noted in bloom on May 20th, 12 inches high and considerable ahead of most early plantings. Soil in late planted fields in ideal condition; likewise, all sweet corn fields in almost perfect shape. Peas and red beets off to a splendid start in Washington County, Wisconsin.

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: INCLUDING JUNE 28th.
:

Volume 4

CROP REPORT

Number 4

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

July 1, 1949

THE RAINS CAME!!!

General, heavy rains during the last ten days of June, following several weeks of above-normal temperatures and relatively little rainfall, brightened the crop picture tremendously in the nine states served by the C&NW Railway, and we enter July with prospects for another "whale" of a corn crop. The rains alleviated fears of a drought year.

The rains came rather late to be of maximum benefit to spring seeded grains, first hay crop, and early pastures. The good they have done will be felt in the later hay crop, pastures and all row crops including vegetables. Needless to say, they have given corn a real "send-off".

TEMPERATURES: Mostly above normal, although a very cool spell around mid-June gave the Corn Belt a scare. Rockford, Illinois temperatures got down to 35° and in Door County, Wisconsin, it froze sufficiently to cut the cherry and apple crops appreciably.

RAINFALL: The following table indicates the rainfall from April 1st through June 28th, compared with normal rainfall for the period April 1st to July 1st, and rain during the ten day period June 18th to 28th:

	April 1 to June 28	April 1 to July 1	: 10 DAYS
	1 9 4 9	NORMAL	: JUNE 18th to
	(Inches)	(Inches)	: JUNE 28th
IOWA (North)	8.46	11.53	: 2.72
IOWA (South)	10.77	11.49	: 3.82
WISCONSIN	7.97	10.34	: 3.40
ILLINOIS (No. and Cent)	7.76	11.03	: 2.23
MINNESOTA (South)	6.37	10.03	: 2.23
NORTH DAKOTA (East)	6.03	7.81	: 1.66
SOUTH DAKOTA (East)	5.18	9.35	: .80
SOUTH DAKOTA (West)	4.83	8.17	: .27
NEBRASKA (East)	11.15	11.06	: 2.19
NEBRASKA (Central)	10.01	8.55	: 1.25
NEBRASKA (West)	8.09	6.75	: .46

The accumulated rainfall since April 1st was far below normal up to June 20th, with the exception of Nebraska; however, the rains of the past 10 days have done a great deal toward correcting this deficiency.

CORN: Outlook for corn is splendid. It is difficult to make an intelligent estimate on the crop at this writing due to some late plantings just coming out of the ground; however, another three billion bushel crop is in the making and abundant rain during the next two months could duplicate the all-time record yield of 3,650,548,000 bushels produced in 1948.

Corn requires a great deal of water during July and August. At least one inch per week will be needed this year to supplement the limited reserve in the sub-soil. There is still a deficiency of sub-soil moisture in many regions. This applies to most of the corn producing states, Nebraska being the only exception.

CORN: There is a heavy corn borer infestation. Considerable spraying is being done to control the first brood. Should the second brood be heavy, an unpredictable amount of damage could be done.

It is possible that the amount of available nitrates in the soil may be a limiting factor. The cold, wet spring was not conducive to the development of available nitrates - just the opposite of a year ago.

Observations made June 23-25th along the main line of the railroad across northern Illinois and central Iowa indicates the corn crop well forward, fields clean, color good and prospects splendid. In the territory along the Missouri River from Missouri Valley north to Sioux City, Iowa, the corn looks exceptionally fine. From Sioux City, Iowa to Huron, S.D., the corn is of good color and advancing rapidly. Many wonderful fields in the Missouri River bottoms, Beresford-Centerville, S.D. area. From Huron east to Brookings, S.D. the fields are in fine condition, stand good, weeds under control and with ample moisture there are good prospects of a big crop. From Brookings, S.D. east all the way across Minnesota via Tracy, Mankato, Rochester and Winona, prospects are exceptionally fine. This section has had abundant rain and only a late July and August drought could prevent a big crop.

The following sums up the corn outlook as we see it:

- PROS:
- 1 - Good stand.
 - 2 - Crop well advanced.
 - 3 - Most fields free of weeds.
 - 4 - Very few floods to cover small plants and leave wet spots.
 - 5 - Almost one hundred percent hybrid seed used.
 - 6 - Availability of chemicals for use in controlling insects.
 - 7 - Color of plants splendid.
-
- CONS:
- 1 - Subsoil dry.
 - 2 - Urgent necessity for July and August rains. Erratic type of rains thus far.
 - 3 - Possible low available nitrates for peak production.
 - 4 - Corn borer infestation.
 - 5 - Grasshoppers numerous in some areas.

The size of the crop will depend very largely upon the amount of July and August rainfall and its distribution.

WINTER WHEAT: Crop ripening under satisfactory conditions in our territory. The Illinois crop is especially fine. Stand spotted in the heavy producing area of western Iowa and east central Nebraska. Weeds a factor in some of these fields. Crop in western Nebraska ready to cut in three weeks. Prospects for good yield. The western South Dakota area is too dry, although the crop produced on fallowed ground will make a satisfactory yield. The harvesting of the crop in the primary winter wheat area of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas has been delayed by excess rains. The total crop will undoubtedly fall short of the June 1st estimate.

SPRING WHEAT: This crop is bound to be a disappointment. Dry weather in May and early June held the crop back seriously. Considerable weed growth. Stooling not as heavy as normally. An outbreak of aphids struck South Dakota in mid-June. These insects devoured foliage over a large area. Some rust in fields. The June 1st estimate will be lowered appreciably.

OATS: Recent rains have helped oats tremendously in filling. Quality of the grain should be good; however, yields over much of our territory will be far below that of the bumper crop of 1,491,752,000 bushels in 1948. On June 22nd, while looking over the experimental plots at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, with Dr. H D Murphy, the man who developed Clinton and various other varieties of oats, he stated that, in his opinion, the Iowa crop would be far below that of 1948. In his fields he expects just about one-half of the 1948 yield. Less than three inches of rain between April 1st and June 20th was the primary cause of yield curtailment. Stooling unusually light and weeds a problem in some areas.

At Huron, S.D. on June 24th, one elevator man made the statement that a good two-inch "soaker" in late May or early June could have just about doubled the yield. Nebraska has had an abundance of rain all season, but oats are not too promising there. Aphids a factor and heavy storms in the last few days have damaged some fields. Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota give promise of better yields.

BARLEY: Barley has fared better than other spring grains. Heads filling well and prospects quite good especially where improved varieties of malting and feeding barley used.

FLAX: The late maturity date of this crop is in its favor this year. Rains came in time to give it a good boost. Weeds pretty well under control through the use of chemicals. Many beautiful fields in bloom across southern Minnesota on June 25th.

SOY BEANS: Outlook for this crop very favorable. Fields clean and not set back by dry weather, due to late planting date. The rotary hoe is responsible for a good job of removing early weeds. Bean acreage appears to be somewhat lighter than last year, and corn acreage heavier.

CANNING CROPS: Early fields were hurt by dry weather with the exception of the Sleepy Eye, Minnesota territory, where yields are very satisfactory. Canning operations under way since about June 20th. Late varieties giving much more promise. Sweet corn growing rapidly. Many early fields already tasselled. Garden plots pretty well tasselled in many areas by June 20th. Late season canning crops will come on well due to the rains.

SUGAR BEETS: Stands much better than a year ago and plants further along. Prospects of big yields in most regions. Abundance of irrigation water available in the west. Prospects in the Riverton, Wyoming section and Belle Fourche, S.D. very promising. Beets on the new Mirage Flats irrigation project look especially good.

POTATOES: Commercial crop good. Favorable weather in most of our producing areas. Many garden patches of early potatoes in the Corn Belt seriously hurt by dry weather.

HAY: Abundance of rainfall in the prairie hay producing section of Nebraska assures big crop. Most red clover fields light. First cutting alfalfa somewhat light, other than where irrigated. On the experimental farm near Redfield, S.D. where preliminary work is being done with irrigation prior to the completing of the Oahe Dam, alfalfa which was given two irrigations made three ton of hay per acre in first cutting. Non-irrigated fields approximated one ton.

JULY 1, 1949

PASTURES: Early pastures exceptionally short. Necessary to feed supplemental hay. In farming areas more cattle than pasture quite a common occurrence.

RANGES: Wyoming looks wonderful. Abundant rain has produced a condition aptly described by C&NW representative Jones at Casper, under date of June 22nd: "as of this date there is not a spot known in Wyoming in need of rain". Nebraska's famed Sand Hills area has also received considerable rain and pastures there are wonderful. Western South Dakota is dry, especially in the northwest corner. Anticipate early movement of livestock unless a radical change in moisture conditions takes place in the immediate future.

LIVESTOCK: Range cattle numbers lean to the heavy side. Cattle are in good shape in most of the range areas. Surprising recovery made following the blizzard conditions of last winter. Sheep numbers light. Spring lambs in good condition throughout most of the west. Large crop of spring pigs and they are coming along wonderfully well. Many are being crowded for early markets. Seldom have we seen such a uniform, thrifty, high class crop of pigs. A Yorkshire litter in Illinois has attracted much attention. This litter was recently weighed at the age of 100 days when the average weight was 100 pounds. When weaned at eight week this litter of 19 pigs weighed a total of 561 pounds, or 40 pounds each. Not bad for one sow's contribution.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

For a number of years it has been comparatively easy to make crop estimates. In fact, a wooden indian could have done a pretty good job. This year the picture has changed and to estimate corn yields this early in the season is an uncertain business because of the unusually large number of varying conditions. Approximately 200,000,000 bushels of corn are sealed to the Government in Iowa. This is almost one-third of last year's crop. At Iowa State College, the men in the Animal Husbandry Department report it is almost impossible to buy corn to feed their livestock, yet Story County, Iowa, where the college is located, produced 10,000,000 bushels last year and half of it is still on the farms.

Pheasants abound in South Dakota. They dot the countryside like "flies on a dead horse". In Wyoming antelope are so numerous that the state game commission has declared an open season and will issue permits to shoot 10,500 animals. Both of these facts, following the terrible blizzards of last winter, prove that our wild life has what it takes to survive. To a considerable extent the same can be said of the range cattle and sheep. They have done a surprisingly good job of coming through.

The dry spring gave weeds quite a chance to start in spring grain. There are many weedy fields and these will present a problem in connection with the use of the combine. With grain binders the weeds would dry in the bundles. When the grain is combined, green weeds present a problem.

Quite an outbreak of aphids in mid-June. They appeared almost over-night and their disappearance was also rapid. They are not unlike cutworms in this respect. These little green bugs are comparable to those which abound on delphiniums in the flower garden when spraying is not resorted to.

Attend the Railroad Fair on Chicago's beautiful lake front. This opened June 25th and will continue through October 2nd. The best show for the money in the United States.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

From: Howard J. Gramlich, General Agricultural Agent

Volume 4

Number 5

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

August 1, 1949

BIG CORN CROP WELL ADVANCED.

The month of July proved to be warm; fortunately, however, there were no hot winds and moisture was seasonal although somewhat erratically distributed. In the main corn producing sections rains were heavy and with the high temperatures the crop made phenomenal progress.

Harvesting of small grains is well along and while the crop is not a bumper one it compares favorably with the long-time average. Corn and soy beans are well advanced and a heavy crop is insured, providing showers are well distributed during the next few weeks.

All of the nine states served by the Chicago and North Western System received a fair supply of moisture, with the exception of South Dakota where rainfall has been under normal all year. In spite of this, a crop of grain has been harvested there which compares favorably with the long-time average production of the state.

This is a year when good farming pays dividends. Remarkable small grain yields have been experienced on well tilled, highly fertilized land and it is probable that somewhat the same results will be experienced with corn, soy beans and other late row crops.

CORN: Corn developed splendidly during July. High temperatures, humidity and frequent showers assisted materially. Given a normal distribution of moisture in August and a mammoth crop will be harvested.

Seldom has this crop been more promising throughout the major producing regions. There is considerable borer infestation; however, it is not expected that this will seriously affect the over-all production. Grasshoppers are also a threat in some local communities.

In addition to the rainfall factor the question of available nitrates in the soil must be taken into account. This season we have already noted materially larger oat yields where the soil was in good tilth and high in nitrates. Should this effect be carried forward into the corn crop there may be some disappointing yields.

As of this writing we estimate the corn crop will exceed the Government's July 1st estimate. Our August 1st estimate is 3,750,000,000 bushels, and the following table indicates our estimate for the six leading corn producing states which we serve, compared with the Government's July 1st estimate.

OATS: This crop is yielding under 1948; however, the quality is good. Forty pound test weight samples have been received at many elevators and 34 to 38 pound samples are commonplace. The straw is short as a result of dry weather. Light stooling is a factor in the reduced yield. Fields on land of high fertility have responded best. At Sioux City, Iowa on July 20th, many farmers from areas lying 100 miles in all directions were interviewed and only one reported a 70 bushel yield. This was on alfalfa sod. An 80 acre field inspected July 21st near Watertown S.D. looked good for 75 bushels per acre of heavy grain. This was on fertilized ground.

BARLEY: The season has proved only fair for this crop. Many good fields, however. Some outstanding results with Moore, the new variety developed in Wisconsin.

FLAX: This crop has withstood the heat and dry weather rather better than earlier grains. Many fields sprayed and comparatively free from weeds.

POTATOES: Another good crop with digging of earliest varieties under way. New techniques coupled with new varieties and large machinery have placed the potato man in the high producing bracket. July rains were timely for northern and central Wisconsin districts with prospects good for an exceptionally large crop. The Watertown-Clark, S.D. areas affected adversely by dry weather of early July. Estimate on crop about 75% of last year's record production. Crop in irrigated sections very large.

SUGAR BEETS: Very favorable season for this crop. Stand good and exceptionally heavy yields in prospect.

CANNING CROPS: Peas in northern Illinois hurried by hot weather. Yields in some districts 25% under last year. Wisconsin-Minnesota crop heavy. Outlook for sweet corn very good. Crop developing rapidly and packing scheduled to start immediately. Very good crop of cucumbers.

PASTURES: These are spotted. In many localities the best they have been in years. This is especially true of the reconditioned ones containing a mixture of grasses and legumes. Sudan grass has furnished a large amount of feed. Old blue grass pastures in some regions failed to come on since the rains started.

HAY: Second cutting alfalfa considerably heavier than the first in many regions. Wild hay crop in Nebraska Sand Hills best in history. Total crop of all hay in our territory is short account light first cutting.

RANGES: Ranges curing rapidly. Failure of rains to continue in western South Dakota resulted in a shortage of grazing there. Wyoming area continues in good shape. All Nebraska districts splendid.

LIVE STOCK: In very good condition. Range animals moving from most districts and in the main are in good flesh. Considerable number of cattle coming into the Corn Belt for early feeding. During the past 30 days very heavy run of sows. Some markets report up to 80% of recent sales. The vanguard of the spring pig crop starting to move with small packages of late winter farrowings. Fine crop of top quality pigs in the making. Prospects for fall farrowings about 10% above last year.

August 1st, 1949

CORN:

(Cont'd)

NORTH WESTERN ESTIMATE

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE

	August 1st	July 1st
IOWA	700,000,000 Bu.	662,340,000 Bu.
ILLINOIS	575,000,000 Bu.	540,780,000 Bu.
MINNESOTA	325,000,000 Bu.	299,397,000 Bu.
NEBRASKA	260,000,000 Bu.	228,284,000 Bu.
SOUTH DAKOTA	115,000,000 Bu.	131,373,000 Bu.
WISCONSIN	135,000,000 Bu.	119,416,000 Bu.

We estimate the crop in the six major producing states listed above to be 2,110,000,000 bushels, or 128,410,000 bushels above the amount produced in these states last year. This estimate is based on a satisfactory amount of moisture being received during August.

RAINFALL:

July rains were quite generous although the time between showers was too long. The following table lists in Column 1 the rainfall for the four week period June 28th to July 27th; in Column 2 the normal July rainfall; in Column 3 the increase or decrease for the period April 1st to July 27th:

	FOUR WEEK PERIOD June 28 to July 27, 1 9 4 9	NORMAL JULY RAINFALL	DEVIATION FROM NORMAL - APRIL THROUGH JULY
IOWA (No.)	5.11 Inches	3.68 Inches	:: 1.64 (Decr.)
IOWA (So.)	3.23 "	3.68 "	:: 1.17 (Decr.)
WISCONSIN	4.09 "	3.45 "	:: 1.73 (Decr.)
ILLINOIS and Cent.)	3.59 "	3.15 "	:: 2.79 (Decr.)
MINNESOTA (So.)	4.38 "	3.25 "	:: 2.53 (Decr.)
NO. DAKOTA (East.)	3.35 "	2.75 "	:: 1.18 (Decr.)
SO. DAKOTA (East.)	2.43 "	2.79 "	:: .53 (Decr.)
SO. DAKOTA (West.)	1.02 "	2.22 "	:: 1.54 (Decr.)
NEBRASKA (East.)	2.71 "	3.63 "	:: .83 (Decr.)
NEBRASKA (Cent.)	2.29 "	3.06 "	:: .71 (Incr.)
NEBRASKA (West.)	1.69 "	2.48 "	:: .53 (Incr.)

From the above table it is apparent that the rainfall during the past four weeks compares quite favorably with the normal. For the growing season the total is below normal in all areas except Nebraska. This is not a serious situation, however, as the flood run-off this year has been light. Seasons of high rainfall usually include several cloudbursts with excess run-off and only limited benefit. Rainfall records of such years can be deceiving in estimating the reserve moisture available to corn.

SOY BEANS:

The outlook for this crop is splendid. Plants have grown rapidly, are tall, blooming heavily and podding well. Prospects outstanding.

WINTER
WHEAT

Crop well up to July 1st estimate. The yield is light in areas where winter killing has been a factor. Splendid crop in northwest Nebraska.

SPRING
WHEAT

This crop has been adversely affected throughout the season. Dry weather prevented stooling. Some green bug damage. Yields in most South Dakota areas 8 to 14 bushels per acre. Quality is good. Minnesota yields higher.

POULTRY: Poultry numbers well above last year. Heavy egg production. Marked increase in the development of broiler business throughout the midwest.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Lands which have been properly cared for are showing up remarkably well this year. Where soils have been properly limed and phosphated and legumes produced in the rotation with fertilizer added as needed, this year's crop is outstanding. Such soils have the moisture holding ability to enable most of the rain to be absorbed. During dry spells these crops have continued to thrive.

The test weight of most grains is high in spite of this being a rather unfavorable small grain year. Much of the improvement can be attributed to the use of seed of top quality. Oats offer an outstanding example of this. Even with light yields the weight per bushel is exceedingly high.

South central South Dakota has had only six inches of moisture since April 1st. On an experimental irrigation test farm near Huron, S.D. recently second cutting of alfalfa was noted on irrigated land and adjoining non-irrigated field. The former was estimated to be making one and three-quarters ton per acre and the latter only a quarter of a ton. The first cutting of these two fields exceeded two ton per acre where irrigated and less than one ton where irrigation was not a factor. Other crops being irrigated were making equally satisfactory progress. The opening of the big central South Dakota area to irrigation water from the Oahe Dam on the Missouri River should do a great deal toward stabilizing the agriculture of central South Dakota.

Final data on the amount of corn committed to the Government under loan and purchase agreement has just become available. In June 142,095,537 bushels were added to that already committed. This makes a grand total of 532,574,190 bushels. Approximately 87% of this is in the six states served by the Chicago and North Western System referred to on page two.

The wonders of refrigeration! Top quality Winesap apples of the 1948 crop are still on the market. These have been in storage in the state of Washington since last October. New apples from the mid-west are on the market at this time and it is expected that there will be shipments from Washington containing both old and new apples.

THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM)
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND)
INCLUDING JULY 27TH)

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

From: HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 4
Number 6

THE LIBRARY OF THE

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

September 1, 1949

THE WEATHERMAN MISSED A LIBBY!!

What a wonderful prospect we had on August 1st! One good two-inch "soaker" during the first week in the month would have given us the all-time record three and three-quarter billion bushel corn crop which this publication predicted. However, the rain did not come - instead - intense heat. The week ending August 3th averaged five degrees above normal and scarcely a drop of rain fell in the nine states served by the Chicago and North Western Railway System.

Where heavy rains had been received during the last week of July corn kept right on growing, but where there was no surplus moisture, as was true in the producing areas of central Iowa and much of South Dakota and Nebraska, deterioration set in.

Scattered showers were received during the second week of August but no general rains until after the month was half over. By that time the size of the corn crop was pretty well determined and no amount of rain could change things appreciably. Fortunately, no hot winds occurred and evaporation remained at a minimum. High humidity proved uncomfortable for humans but helped hold the corn.

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

The U. S. corn crop, as of this writing, appears to be 3,500,000,000 bushels. Not bad considering the above statements. As a matter of fact this is the second largest crop ever produced. Last year a 3,650,000,000 bushel crop was harvested and the highest previous record was in 1946 when 3,250,000,000 bushels were produced.

Records indicate we have only produced ten crops of three billion or more bushels. Most of these have been just above the three billion mark. Five of them were harvested during the period 1942-1948 and four of the others during the wet cycle of 1917-1923. Therefore, the 1949 crop is an outstanding one, exceeded only by the larger production of 1948. We can well be proud of this fine record.

CORN It takes five million pounds of water to produce a 100 bushel corn crop, the equivalent of 20 inches of rainfall, and it requires **HEAVY** approximately 800 pounds (2 bbls) of water, to produce one pound of **WATER** dry kernel. Most of this water is used by the corn plant between **USER:** the middle of July and the middle of August. Corn loves heat! The hot weather of early August would have been ideal for this plant had there been ample moisture in the soil. Too bad irrigation is impractical in most of the Corn Belt. Incidentally, a large amount of corn is now raised in the state of Nebraska with supplemental water. Reports from that state indicate yields of from 100 to 150 bushels per acre are anticipated in many places.

CORN: There should be no worries about the quality of the 1949 corn.
(Cont d) The crop is two weeks ahead of normal in most sections and unless an unseasonable killing frost should strike within the next few days little danger exists. First of the new corn from Texas - Oklahoma was received on the markets last week.

Northern Illinois, eastern Iowa and southern Wisconsin have a huge crop. This area received rains when needed. Many new records for high yields will be made. Certain sections in central Iowa have failed to receive normal moisture and in these places the crop has been seriously damaged; however, by and large, Iowa will have a big crop. Some of the earlier reports of wonderful prospects in southern Minnesota have failed to materialize. However, here again the crop is far larger than average.

The sixty mile strip along the eastern edge of South Dakota is in fairly good shape. Beyond that the corn took a terrific beating. Rains on August 18th and 19th helped some fields. On August 16th three farmers were seen in a field in the Belle Fourche to Rapid City, S.D. area, with corn binders converting damaged corn into silage. This operation was three weeks earlier than usual.

Twice this year Nature has fooled us. Prospects for a record winter wheat crop were wonderful shortly before the crop ripened; however, excess rainfall during the harvest cut the yield very materially. Now a shortage of rainfall to finish the corn crop has shaved the peak from what appeared to be an all-time record production.

SOY BEANS: This crop stood the dry weather remarkably well. Late August rains came at a most opportune time for beans. It was not as far advanced as corn and every indication points to a high yield. Some fields are weedy; however, plants are strong, podding heavy and production is bound to be large.

SMALL GRAINS Dry weather and extreme heat of August facilitated the small grain harvest. Availability of a large number of custom combines aided materially in speeding up the operation. Generally speaking, yields are disappointing compared with last year although they are well up to the long-time average. A few phenomenal yields of oats and barley are reported in several areas. Very heavy winter wheat crop in northwestern Nebraska area.

FALL SEED BEDS: A large amount of fall plowing was done early. The heavy rains of August 18th and 19th have made it possible to work the plowing into splendid physical condition for seed beds. Some alfalfa is already seeded. Fields for winter wheat and rye are in fine shape in the Nebraska, South Dakota, western Iowa areas.

POTATOES: Digging of early varieties well under way. Yields very satisfactory. Quality good. Wisconsin crop exceptional. Yields in northeastern South Dakota are approximating 150 bushels per acre. Quality very fine.

SUGAR BEETS: Prospects continue outstanding for this crop. Reins came at opportune time in non-irrigated areas. One of the best crops in years in the Belle Fourche, S.D. territory, and many splendid fields in the Whitney-Mirage Flats-Gordon areas of northern Nebraska. Non-irrigated beets in Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern Illinois promise a big yield.

PASTURES: These are spotted and vary from very good to poor. Conditions determined by the amount of summer rain received and previous care of pasture land. In many sections old pastures which have been renovated are showing a tremendous "carrying" capacity. It has been a wonderful year for Sudan Grass. Prospects for fall pastures are promising due to recent showers.

HAY: Wild hay crop exceptionally heavy especially in the Nebraska Sand Hills area. Alfalfa spotted. First crop proved light; the second very heavy; the third average and the fourth looks very promising. Total amount of hay will compare quite favorably with last year. Good stand of legumes in stubble fields.

CANNING CROPS: Canning of sweet corn started the last of July, almost two weeks earlier than last year. Crop very heavy in primary producing areas, especially Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Several factories report sweet corn yielding two to three ton per acre above average. Late crops doing well.

LIVE-STOCK: First of big spring pig crop arriving at markets. Heavy movement anticipated during the next few weeks. Reports on fall litters farrowed thus far, are favorable.

FEEDER MARKET: The big cattle question is in process of being solved. All summer range men and Corn Belt operators have haggled over prices of feeder stock. Few early contracts were consummated. Movement to markets is now heavy and prices pretty well established. Most cattle are selling from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per cwt. lower than last year. Memory of the \$30.00 per cwt. feeder steer is still in peoples' minds, especially those who had to sell such steers for \$22.00 to \$23.00 per cwt. when finished. There is a large amount of roughage and the Corn Belt is anxious to get cattle.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

There is a big carry-over of old corn, a condition just the opposite of last year. It is anticipated that on October 1st there will be 800,000,000 bushels of old corn in storage, most of this on the farms where raised. Approximately 556,000,000 bushels are under commitment to the Government and supposedly will be turned to same during the next two months. The guarantee price on this corn is above \$1.40 per bushel, which price is from 20% to 25% higher than the current market. The big outlet for corn has always been and always will be, livestock. If the price of corn proves to be so high that livestock feeders will not risk buying and converting it a tremendous surplus is bound to result.

At this season we are always impressed with the large amount of bulky farm products which have no value other than as roughage for livestock, principally cattle.

THE CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 4
Number 7

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
JAN 15 1950 OCTOBER 1, 1949

The weather during September proved almost ideal. The first two weeks were damp with heavy, soaking rains over the week-end of the 10-11th. Temperatures were rather low and skies cloudy. Since mid-month, however, bright sunshiny weather with a fair amount of wind has hastened the maturing of both corn and soy beans. While ideal for these two plants another rain would be welcome at this time for pastures, new seedings, fields still to be fall plowed and as a means of building up reserve sub-soil moisture for next year.

CORN: Maturing of this crop has been almost perfect. The very favorable weather of late June and July pushed it ahead with amazing rapidity and with the plants approximately ten days ahead of normal on September 1st, together with no killing frosts in most areas until late in the month, practically all of the plants are out of danger.

Farmers are anxious to start picking as early as possible as they fear wind damage. Plants infested with the corn borer will topple over rather easily and where the borer is imbedded in the ear shank the ears could shake off with very little provocation. Seed corn growers have been picking for the past two weeks. Most of this contains about 30% moisture, and will be dried to 12% before shelling.

The corn crop should approximate the official September 1st estimate of 3,525,741,000 bushels. It is probable that the Iowa estimate is too high. There are more corn borers in that area than we thought and the long spells of dry weather through the north central part of the state did a good deal of damage. Apparently the best corn is to be found in the thirty mile strip across the state adjacent to our main line on the south. This extends through Clinton, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Boone and Carroll. The September 1st estimate indicated the average yield in Iowa to be 56 bushels per acre. This could be lowered three bushels which would be a total decrease of seven bushels from the initial July 1st estimate of 60 bushels per acre.

Nebraska's corn is splendid. The northeastern section of the state has the best corn it has produced in years. The crop is also very fine in the irrigated valleys of the central Platte territory. We are expecting the national high yield in the 300 Bushel Per Acre contest to be from that region. Corn in eastern Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin is also exceptionally fine.

A few loads of new crop corn have been received at markets in recent weeks. Movement is light compared to 1948 when we were just emerging from the period of high prices following the drought of 1947.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDING: Most seed beds in fine condition. Planting in the High Plains area of South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado completed several weeks ago. Illinois, Iowa and eastern Nebraska retarded due to awaiting Hessian Fly free date; however, now in full swing.

POTATOES: Digging almost completed. Yields very satisfactory and quality splendid. The market held up well and most of the crop in our territory was sold through regular channels. Big shortage of seed stock. Number of outstanding yields reported in Wisconsin, exceeding 500 to 600 bushels per acre in many cases.

SUGAR Digging under way with very heavy yields in all districts. Sugar
BEETS: content gives promise of equaling last year. This has been a very good season for beets.

CANNING Record crop of sweet corn. Very heavy tonnage. Some packing still
CROPS: under way in the northern Illinois area at this writing, in fields planted last of June. This has proved to be a long canning season first packing having been done last week in July. Crops heavy in both Illinois and Wisconsin. Dry weather in parts of southern Minnesota has cut the yield there.

Red beets, carrots, lima beans and cabbage turning out well. Large movement of cabbage in Wisconsin.

CRAN- Harvesting well under way in Wisconsin. Total crop estimated to
BERRIES: be 181,000 barrels of 100 pounds each, almost one-quarter of entire U. S. crop.

LIVE- Large range cattle movement with big cut in prices, about five to
STOCK: eight dollars per cwt. below last year. Some heavy steers down as much as ten dollars per cwt. in early September. Bulk of yearlings going into feed lots at \$21.00 to \$22.00 per cwt. Boom in the fat cattle market at mid-month received much publicity, Peak of over \$35.00 per cwt. resulted in popular resistance and market has dropped since.

HOGS: Spring pigs moving in good volume, with quite a percentage not quite "finished." Many droves of 200 pounds or less subject to discrimination. One large Illinois producer has marketed 400 out of his spring crop of 1,600 head. This man always ships when pigs reach 225 pounds and has found this to be a sound procedure.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The beautiful month of September has passed. The golden leaves of the soy bean plant have fallen. The green corn has reached the dry stage and a brilliant touch of color in the foliage of the trees and shrubs reminds us that the growing season is over. Only alfalfa remains green to keep the color of summer before us.

The corn borer is here to stay, and we are going to have to learn to fight him. We emerge from the 1949 growing season more than ever convinced of this. Control through spraying will be the answer. Spraying for the first brood is quite simple. For the second brood there is more of a problem. An outfit something on the order of that used for detasseling corn plus an overhead tank should prove ideal for this.

THIS IS THE LAST REPORT OF THE SEASON.

We trust it has proved of some value to you and that we may again number you among our readers when the first report of the 1950 growing season is released on April 1st.

38.1
81



Volume 4
Number 8

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CHRISTMAS,
1949

Once more we approach the Christmas season. At this time we would like to be with all of our friends; however, as this is impossible the best we can do is to send a few lines expressing our thoughts.

This is the Christmas issue of the Green and the Gold. These colors are carried in the heading of this letter and, in addition, the color red has been added which, with green, symbolizes Christmas and all of the things for which it stands.

Holly, which combines red and green so beautifully and which is traditional at Christmas is an agricultural crop. In the Pacific Northwest the raising of commercial holly is a big industry and there is no more beautiful sight than a grove of holly trees thickly covered with glossy deep green leaves and clusters of bright red berries.

Speaking of color - the sugar maples this fall were exceptionally beautiful. What lovely foliage they carry in spite of the handicap man sometimes places on them. On April 1st we drove by a sugar maple camp in the proximity of Antigo, Wisconsin. A syrup bucket was hanging from practically every tree and the juice was steadily dripping into these. Despite man's theft of part of the bloodstream of these shapely trees they developed leaves and thrived throughout the summer and on October 1st, six months later, this grove was a blaze of glory. What an awe inspiring sight.

The era in which we are living finds resourcefulness a necessity. The diesel engine, depicted on this letterhead, symbolizes this admirably. A diesel can run in either direction. It has the flexibility which is so essential to success. Of course it cannot run in all directions at once, as did the horse of the General who stated: "I got on my horse and rode in all directions." It is difficult to tell in which direction the diesel is headed, even more so than the chap who noticed the negro putting a saddle backwards on his mule. Upon asking why he was doing this the negro replied: "How do you know which way I wuz going?"

With the approach of Christmas we realize the importance of our obligations to our fellow men. At a meeting last spring a man who had passed his 91st birthday was asked to say a few words. In a very simple manner he told of the four things to which he attributed his longevity:

I have always worked hard.

I get up early in the morning.

I have a clear conscience.

I have a hearty handshake for everybody.

This man's philosophy is not unlike that of the late Will Rogers who once said "I have never met a man I didn't like."

Recently we celebrated "Newsboys Day." On this occasion we honored the little shavers who get up early and tramp through the snow in order that we may have the morning paper as we sip our coffee. It is a fine thing to have at least one day on which we honor the chap who works.

Several years ago in Raton, New Mexico, I went out on the street at 6:00 A M to buy a paper. The little fellow who was selling them obviously was not over ten years old. When asked what hours he sold papers he replied "from 6:00 to 8:00 in the morning and from 4:00 to 6:00 in the afternoon." Asked if he went to school he retorted "sure." When asked if he liked school he replied "sure, mister, that's the only rest I get."

Back in the days when Christmas celebrations were the real old-fashioned kind and candles were used because there were no other sources of light, there was plenty of work for the youngsters to do. Even in the city it was customary to have a cow and flock of chickens. There was wood to chop, coal to carry and ashes to haul away. In those days it was relatively easy for parents to teach youngsters how to work and assume responsibility. Today, in this push-button era, there is not much chance for children to assume responsibility, especially in the towns and cities of the nation.

The forty-hour week is undoubtedly here to day, yet it has created a peculiar situation. There are 168 hours in a week. Today we find ourselves working 40 hours, sleeping 56 and spending what we have earned in the remaining 72 hours. Many are finding that they cannot earn enough in 40 hours to provide spending money for the 72.

A farmer recently stated that he worked an eight-hour day - eight hours before noon and eight hours after noon. This, of course, is too long and there is a happy medium somewhere between the two extremes which might be better for most of us. There is an old adage to the effect that "more men rust out than wear out."

Success, like the snow in winter, is inclined to pile high in some places and be swept bare in others. It requires quite a good deal of fortification to accept success with the right attitude. Recently, a Wyoming boy made quite a phenomenal record in the production of sweet clover seed. On forty acres of the irrigated farm which he had purchased from the Bureau of Reclamation two years ago, he produced this year a crop of sweet clover seed which averaged 1100 pounds per

acre. For this seed he received \$14.50 per cwt. or a gross from the forty acres of over \$6,000.00. This chap will need to be ready to accept lighter yields and probably lower prices in the future. The real test of his character will come when that time arrives.

Christmas is builded around old-fashioned settings. Christmas cards illustrate the homecoming in bob-sleds and carry-alls. The horse furnishes the power in all cases. We now live in a mechanical age and in our everyday life the horse has become a rarity. He lives on largely in tradition. Some fifteen years ago a department in Washington issued a bulletin entitled "Mechanical Men." This dwelt on the change which was taking place in the use of mechanical power. To illustrate the switch in power which had occurred when horses came into general use and relieved men of much of the backbreaking labor the author had sketched four men sitting on half a horse. This being the ratio existing between men and horses. One horse could do the work of eight men.

The advent of electricity has brought much pleasure to the American farmer. Today over four and one half million farms are equipped with electricity. What a fine thing to have both light and power in the farm buildings. A drive down a country road on Christmas eve finds about as many Christmas trees lighted with electricity as one finds in the cities.

It has been a pleasure to bring you the Green and the Gold during the past several years. Between the lines of this issue we trust you will be able to recognize our best wishes for your future happiness and contentment. We trust that you and yours will have a most pleasant holiday season and that 1950 will have much in store for you.

Most sincerely,



GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 5

CROP REPORT

Number 1

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

April 1, 1950

This marks the first issue of the Green and the Gold for 1950.

Naturally, April 1st is an early date to give much detail regarding growing crops in the nine states served by the Chicago and North Western Railway - i.e. - Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming; however, it will give us an opportunity to review the winter's weather and present a picture of conditions throughout our territory as of this date.

I have before me two objects. One, a chunk of coal; the other a beautiful yellow daffodil on a long, green stem. The coal symbolizes the inanimate. It took millions of years for this to form. In the cavity where it was mined no other coal will be produced. The daffodil symbolizes the return of spring and the marvels of agriculture. The green of the stem and leaves represents growing crops and the gold of the beautiful blossom the mature grain at harvest time.

Spring is here and the farmers are going into the fields to prepare for the seeding of new crops. Tremendous new wealth will be produced from these seedings. Furthermore, this new wealth can be created year after year on fully as great a scale as at present providing our farmers use all of the latest knowledge available in handling their soil, including latest soil conservation methods, new, highly improved seed; judicious use of fertilizer and manure; proper rotation of crops and all of the various other phases which we now realize are so necessary to a permanent agriculture.

MOISTURE: Below normal moisture conditions have prevailed during the past five months in nearly all of our territory. This has been especially pronounced in the High Plains states to the east of the Rocky Mountains. Fortunately rainfall in that area was ample during the growing season of 1949.

Opposite conditions prevailed in Illinois where winter moisture proved to be excessive. Many areas in the southern part of the state received over 30 inches of rain in the three month period December through February.

Such winter accumulation of snow as occurred in Iowa and eastern Nebraska melted on Sunday, March 5th and, to a large extent, the water ran off the frozen land.

TEMPERATURE: Temperatures were above normal up to the first of March. Since that date a good deal of unusual cold weather has prevailed with blizzard conditions over a considerable area on March 7th and 8th.

WINTER

WHEAT: Winter wheat west of the Missouri River seeded largely on summer fallowed land made quick growth during the fall and provided considerable winter pasture. It is doubtful if winter wheat prospects will prove as satisfactory as early estimates. The dry season, coupled with Green Bug infestation during recent weeks, have taken their toll. Good soaking rains in early April would be beneficial. They would stop the Green Bugs and wet the top soil thus preventing further blowing.

WHEAT: There were 53,023,000 acres seeded to Winter Wheat last fall
(Cont'd) and this together with an anticipated 19,727,000 acres of
Spring Wheat totals 72,750,000 acres. This is 14.3% below the
1949 acreage. The reduction is in part due to the federal control program.

IRRIGATION

WATER: Snow fall in most of the mountain regions has been very heavy.
This should insure ample water for irrigation purposes. There
are a number of places in the Wind River territory of Wyoming
where packed snow contains from 20 to 30 inches of water. Similar conditions
prevail in most of the Rocky Mountain areas.

In the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming snow accumula-
tion is below normal.

OLD CORN There is quite a shortage of saleable corn in our territory due
HOLDINGS: to a large amount being under seal to the Government. Last fall
a considerable part of the 1948 crop was turned to the Govern-
ment and stored as shelled corn at strategic points throughout the territory.
At this writing farmers are sealing their 1949 crop. No definite data is
available; however, indications are there will be quite a large amount sealed.

COMMERCIAL There is a heavy movement of commercial fertilizer. During
FERTILIZERS: recent years splendid yields resulting from the use of
fertilizer has caused an almost universal acceptance of the
practice of applying it to both row and seeded crops. The strikes in the
potash mines during the fall gave promise of creating quite a shortage of
this ingredient; however, to date manufacturers have been able to take care
of most orders for mixed fertilizer.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

There have been several days during the past three months when
exceedingly high winds have prevailed and quite a number of dust storms.

The dry winter provided almost ideal conditions for feeding live-
stock in the Corn Belt. Record gains were obtained on all classes of animals.

No oats have been seeded in Iowa to date due to wet fields in
the southern part of the state and frost is still in the ground in the northern
half. There have been years when all of the oats have been seeded by April
1st.

Requested Corn acreage reductions are as high as 25% in some Iowa counties.
Present indications are that farmers will not cut this severely.

The only blizzard of the winter hit the Nebraska Sandhills area
on March 7th. There were some losses of cattle due to animals drifting into
lakes as the herds crowded with the storm

THE CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 5 CROP REPORT
Number 2 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD ILLINOIS May 1st, 1950

During the past few days there has been much publicity regarding floods. These are serious in rather limited areas along streams and have been caused by rapidly melting snow and ice jams in North Dakota. The real problem, however, in much of the territory served by the Chicago and North Western Railway, as of April 25th, is lack of rain. Iowa and Nebraska are dry. Rains on Sunday, April 23rd, brought some measure of top soil relief in the northeastern part of Iowa. Not in years has the water level been so low, in creeks and small streams. The stream which flows between the town of Ames, Iowa and the Iowa State College campus is normally 25 feet wide and quite deep. This has been reduced to a mere trickle. Pot holes are dry and ponds for holding runoff are empty.

The serious drought prevailing in the winter wheat producing area to the south causes grave concern over what might happen. As yet Nebraska's winter wheat crop looks fine. Ample rains could produce a splendid crop. Observations in east central Nebraska and along the Missouri River bottoms of western Iowa on April 22nd and 23rd bear this out.

South Dakota is in fairly good shape due to considerable surface moisture received there around mid-month. Most of North Dakota is very wet. As yet no field work has been done in that area. Floods from melting snow are causing damage in the Red River Valley, especially at Grand Forks, North Dakota where it is the worst since 1897. The Missouri River is very high along the entire course.

TEMPERATURE: April was a cool month, with temperatures averaging about five degrees below normal. In addition weather conditions were very erratic with a surplus of rain in some regions and lack of it in others. There were more severe winds than usual, with considerable blowing in the High Plains.

MOISTURE: Distribution of rainfall was representative of conditions which have prevailed in most of our territory during the past six months. Only about two inches of total rainfall in the six months period at many points in Nebraska, with the same condition prevailing at points in Iowa. Much of this rainfall has not been effective being received in quantities of less than one-quarter inch at a time. On the other hand extremely heavy moisture in south central Illinois with many points receiving forty inches in the past five months. In other words, rainfall this year thus far may be likened to a soldier's uniform - just two sizes - either too large or too small.

OATS: Cool weather retarded farm operations in regions where soil was damp, the delay in oat seeding being the most serious factor. Total acreage seeded will be far below early estimates other than in Nebraska and parts of Iowa. Practically no oats planted in Iowa prior to April 1st and very few before April 10th. Cold weather, night freezing and snow being the delaying factors. Planting in Illinois also delayed because of wet top soil; however, with favorable conditions after the 15th seeding advanced rapidly and most of the oats to be planted were in the ground by the 20th. Because of dry top soil conditions in

OATS: Nebraska the oat crop was in several weeks earlier and early
(Cont'd) plantings are up to a good start there. As a rule Iowa farmers do not plant oats after April 15th; however, this year because of the urge to get a large acreage of grass started many planted later than usual.

WINTER WHEAT: Winter wheat in most of Nebraska in very good condition. Severe winter and spring droughts in the states south of Nebraska have cut the crop outlook there, but with timely rains conditions in western Iowa, Nebraska and those parts of South Dakota where winter wheat is produced extensively, will continue to be most favorable. Dust storms which did considerable damage in the Kansas-western Texas and Oklahoma wheat producing area spent their force before reaching Nebraska.

The rather general practice of raising wheat on summer fallow and allowing the stubble of the previous year to remain standing on alternate fields has served to check soil loss by wind erosion throughout the west much more effectively than in the Dust Bowl days of the mid thirties.

PASTURES: The cool spring has retarded grass to a great extent. Fortunately, supplies of feed are abundant and stock, in the main, is being well fed. Some pastures are being abused in an attempt at early grazing.

CORN: Stocks of corn on farms, as of April 1st, slightly lower than last year but still very large and far above the long-time average. In addition, Government owned corn of the 1948 crop, stored in colonies of bins throughout the Corn Belt further augment the supply in the area. In Iowa alone over 80,000,000 bushels of Government owned corn is stored in such bins.

Corn planting usually starts May 10th; however, this year entomologists are recommending delaying planting until the 15th in order to minimize Corn Borer damage. The ideal dates recommended for planting in our territory are May 15th to 25th.

PIGS: Some loss of early pigs. Total number of sows farrowing is above a year ago with indications for a big crop of fall pigs.

SOY BEANS: Acreage of soy beans will undoubtedly be large due to the corn acreage reduction program. Grain and forage sorghums can also be used effectively for this purpose in the area west of the soy bean belt. Sorghums are drought resistant and should 1950 prove to be a year of light summer rainfall they would be especially good "insurance" crops.

IRRIGATION WATER: There is a large amount of snow in the mountains which supply irrigation water throughout our territory. At Brooks Lake No. 3 in the Upper Wind River area of Wyoming on April 1st there were 93.7 inches of snow. The water content of this totaled 31.8 inches. Such reserves should provide ample water as needed in the valleys during the coming summer.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

It is anticipated planting in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas will be two to three weeks later than usual; however, these states are sufficiently far north to permit late planting. Extreme heat is not apt to strike there before grains ripen.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

Illustrative of the speed with which farm work is done - Art Walters of LaSalle County, Illinois, when interviewed on April 18th, regarding the seeding of his oats, stated "just started planting yesterday and we will be finished tomorrow." Double disks ran ahead of and followed the two end gate seeders. All implements large and tractor drawn. Considering the fact that he planted 160 acres the time in which he accomplished the soil preparation and the seeding was indeed short.

On April 23rd at Omaha the Missouri River was boiling along at flood stage. While crossing this on the high railroad bridge thoughts went to the dry areas to the east in Iowa and to the west in Nebraska. All of this flood water could have been used on these fertile acres and it will be needed again in mid-summer. Another argument for the further development of reservoirs along the Upper Missouri River and its tributaries.

Sunday, April 23rd in eastern Nebraska was a warm, early summer-like day with a 90 degree temperature. Most oats up. Wheat fields green and Bridel Wreath bushes in bloom. Tuesday, April 25th in the same area found a 37 degree temperature with snow predicted.

Last year the first car of new wheat from Texas was marketed on May 20th.

To date 1950 has been erratic. Windy at times - warm in mid-winter and cold in March and April. Floods in some places and very light rainfall in others. Late April snow storms in some areas. Anything can happen in such a year. However, it's no time to get excited. Frequently "bumper" crops are killed several times before they are harvested. After all, other than winter wheat most grain belt crops are made by weather which prevails from May 1st to September 1st and not on that of the January through April period.

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Material contained herein prepared
from reports received and personal
observations made up to and including
April 25th.
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THE CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 5

CROP REPORT

Number 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

June 1, 1950

A 3,000 mile trip by daylight during the last week of May over the territory served by our lines reveals that a "near miracle" has taken place in recent weeks. Virtually, we went directly from winter into summer. The spring was cold and backward with ground freezing at night in many areas as late as early May.

In the past four weeks soaking showers have been received in practically all of our territory; however, not in excess as pot holes are still dry in most places but from three to five inches of rain have been received and the top soil is in splendid condition. Parts of northern Illinois have failed to receive heavy showers, since those which fell at the end of April.

Spring seeded grain is making rapid progress. A surprisingly good growth in fields which were properly prepared before planting. First planted corn, soy beans and sugar beets are up, and an inspection in northern Illinois on May 27th and 28th found most corn up to a nice stand with check row pattern very discernible. This condition prevails in the nine counties - i.e. - DeKalb, Lee, Whiteside, Carroll, Ogle, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone and Jo Daviess. Alfalfa dehydrators are busy processing the first cutting.

CORN: For the past two weeks corn planting has been the "order of the day." With four row machines in general use an exceedingly large acreage was planted as soon as weather conditions permitted. Entomologists had recommended deferring planting due to the Corn Borer threat and the weather made it necessary to follow this advice. Many farmers in the major corn producing states had finished planting by the 20th and the bulk of the corn was in by the 25th. A Wayne, Nebraska operator stated that corn planted on Saturday, May 13th was emerging on the 20th.

Condition of the seed beds is almost ideal with ample moisture, soil friable and fine; just about the right tilth. The use of tandem discs with harrow trailing checked the growth of sprouting weeds and produced just the right condition for the corn kernel. Often much corn is planted in dry soil and does not sprout for several weeks waiting for moisture; however, this year the opposite condition has prevailed. With the quite general practice of putting fertilizer in with the corn at time of planting early growth should be rapid and by mid-summer the handicap of late planting should be entirely overcome.

In some areas where small grain plantings were not completed because of lateness of the season there will be more corn than originally planned for.

SOY BEANS: Planting is under way throughout the entire area. A few beans were planted ahead of corn by farmers who purposely delayed their corn planting in the hopes of minimizing corn borer damage. One field of soy beans at Sterling, Illinois was up on May 23rd. The total acreage will be larger due to the fact that there is no control program on this crop; also, with the season being late a number of fields originally intended for small grain and other crops will be switched to soy beans. Reports indicate there could be a 35% increase in acreage over that of last year.

SPRING SEEDED Oats are growing very rapidly. The stand is good and soil
SMALL GRAINS: and moisture conditions satisfactory for this crop.
Acreage almost up to expectations in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Spring wheat seedings in our territory not quite up to intentions. Barley acreage increased over last year.

CANNING CROPS: Continuity of pea planting interrupted by adverse weather. Normally, planting continues on a daily basis for about thirty days. Earliest peas in the DeKalb-Rochelle-Belvidere-Sycamore, Illinois areas up 8 inches on the 28th. It is doubtful if there will be any canning prior to July 1st which is about ten days later than normal.

More moisture is needed in this area. Earliest sweet corn is up. Lima beans being planted. Seed beds well prepared. Early operations in our Minnesota and Iowa areas delayed by both cold and excess moisture. Wisconsin is unusually cool but has received less than usual rainfall.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop looks exceptionally good in Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa. Reserve moisture in the sub-soil carried it through the dry winter and early spring. Many splendid fields noted in the Missouri River bottoms from Omaha north to Decatur. Plants up to a 12 inch growth by May 22nd and rapidly approaching the "heading out" stage. Most grain normally doubles in height after heading. First new wheat received at Texas markets on May 24th.

PASTURES: The cold spring delayed development of pastures and much old hay and silage fed during May. Grass made rapid growth after May 20th. Fall seeded rye was a boon to those who had planted this crop. Brome Grass proved to be the fastest growing permanent grass during the cool weather and many Brome pastures were in good condition for heavy grazing by May 20th. Native grass in the range areas about three weeks later than usual.

LIVESTOCK: The moisture which was received in our range territory of South Dakota, Wyoming, and western Nebraska came in the form of wet snows. The last of these the week end of May 5th started as a sleet storm and proved to be very hard on young calves and lambs. Heavy mortality rate among animals just a few days old. Many operators report heavier losses than those experienced during the blizzards of 1949. The lateness of these storms caused the damage to livestock.

Spring pigs are numerous, thrifty and growing fast.

IRRIGATION WATER: We are in the best position for irrigation water that we have been in years. The Wyoming reservoir and reserve snow in the high mountains picture has been quite satisfactory all winter. On May 1st there was an accumulation of 82.8 inches of wet snow, containing 33.4 inches of moisture, at Brooks Lake No. 3 above Riverton, Wyoming. However, at Belle Fourche, S.D. the big reservoir was less than one-third full on March 1st. Since then five inches of moisture have been received throughout that territory resulting in the 200,000 acre feet reservoir being filled and the diversion gates shut on Tuesday, May 16th. The big reservoir back of the newly completed Angostura Dam in southwestern South Dakota is filled. Incidentally, this dam was started in 1946.

SUGAR BEETS: Planting of this crop in some areas was delayed by the wet spring. Operators in the Belle Fourche, S.D. area completed planting May 25th. Many fields which were put in prior to May 5th were up to a splendid start on the 20th and thinning operations were scheduled to start within a week. In that territory soil conditions are the best they have been at this date in years. Abundant moisture is resulting in prompt germination. Increase in acreage of from 20% to 40% prevailing in our territory.

One grower who has been in the business for many years reported that in 1927 he planted beets on June 13th and that these made 14 ton per acre; therefore, he was not especially worried regarding the outcome of seed which he was planting on May 20th.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Mechanized farming has certainly been a blessing to the farmer during the past few weeks. It has made it possible for a tremendous amount of work to be done during the spells when soil conditions were right. Tractors which started at daybreak were kept moving continuously throughout the day and frequently operated with headlights until far into the night.

Alfalfa is a wonderful crop. First cutting was going to the dehydrating plants before most row crops had been seeded. Plants at Tekamah and Herman, Nebraska were seen in operation on May 22nd and most of the other Nebraska plants were also running.

To date 1950 has been an erratic year. The winter was warm and the spring cold. Winds of near cyclonic proportions at times. Drought where rain was needed and floods where it was not. Parts of Illinois received 50 inches of rain during the winter, yet on May 27th asparagus fields were being irrigated at Rochelle, 80 miles west of Chicago. So warm in Arkansas strawberries bloomed all winter then froze twice in April.

Anything can happen in a year of this sort. This report is essentially optimistic; however, the size of this year's crop will be largely determined by the amount and distribution of summer rainfall.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 5 CROP REPORT
Number 4 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD JULY 1, 1950

June proved to be a month of uncertainties. Eccentricities of all kinds occurred; however, it now appears that things have levelled off and a good old-fashioned growing season is in progress.

The season is about one week late. This, however, is not serious. Usually crops have ample time to mature and with favorable moisture conditions during July and August the one week delay could easily be overcome.

Excessive winds in early June dried out the top soil over much of our western territory. Temperatures fluctuated from readings of over 100 in Nebraska on the 12th to a low of 36 in Wisconsin on the 18th. Rainfall has been erratic with floods prevailing in many Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska areas. Flash floods of from five to seven inches within the space of a few hours caused trouble in local areas, especially where the topography is rolling. In spite of all these irregularities as of this date crops are quite promising.

MOISTURE: During June moisture was erratic but as the month closes most of the territory served by our system has been pretty well taken care of. A report by states follows:

IOWA: Heavy showers have fallen throughout the month and the subsoil is soaked for the first time in two years. Flash floods around the 20th washed badly in hilly sections. Some bottom corn covered silt. In the main the stand of corn is splendid.

MINNESOTA: Southern half dry during the early part but in mid-month received several good "soakers." Crops look splendid; however, no moisture in pot holes and other low spots indicates lack of sub-soil reserve. Seasonal distribution of rain will be needed to carry crops to maturity.

WISCONSIN: Has received sufficient moisture and crops are unusually promising.

NEBRASKA: In good shape, especially in the northern half of the state. Greater part of the winter wheat belt in the central portion also producing a big crop.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Very dry. Most of the state has had less than one inch of rain during June. The northeast corner, which has produced bumper crops for the past ten years has already been seriously hurt. An abundance of irrigation water in the Belle Fourche reservoir insures big crops in the irrigated valley adjacent thereto.

ILLINOIS:

In wonderful shape. A tendency toward drought earlier in the month was off-set by heavy rains and crops are good. There are many fields of corn which will be more than the traditional "knee high" by July 4th. Pea canning started.

WYOMING:

Grass in splendid condition with ranges green and growing rapidly. Abundant irrigation water to carry crops forward in the valleys.

MICHIGAN:

Season backward in the Upper Peninsula. Freezing temperatures around the 20th. Crops developing rapidly now. Potato prospects favorable.

CORN:

Corn is growing very rapidly and many fields are already knee high. Potholes in Iowa which have been dry for several years are filled and these low pockets will not produce a crop this year, but the remainder of the soil has been soaked. Where top soil has washed in on flat places the stand has been seriously damaged; however, such things always occur and when averaged up the percentage of total acres lost and the amount replanted will not differ materially from an average year.

The prolonged periods of wet weather during mid-June permitted some corn fields to become weedy and the ground crusted on top. During the past week, however, farmers have been able to do a great deal of cultivating and in most cases have the weeds under control. Many have used chemical weed killers.

SOY BEANS:

Looks to be the outstanding crop of the year. They rate "A-1" at this time and with the large acreage and wonderful prospects should make a new all-time total production record. Stands are good; fields clean; plants growing rapidly and with a reasonable amount of summer moisture a big crop is assured. Early weed growth in most fields was killed before the beans were planted. Prospects in Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota exceedingly favorable.

PASTURES:

Pastures have made wonderful progress during the month. Most areas received sufficient moisture and rapid growth has been made during intermittent warm spells. In sections where excess rainfall has been received pastures and meadows did a splendid job of holding moisture and preventing soil erosion.

ALFALFA:

First cutting of this crop in our territory came during the wettest part of the month which resulted in nearly all of the hay being badly damaged. Some loss also occurred due to floods carrying the curing hay into ditches and against fences. Some farmers made ensilage out of the crop and should have good winter feed. Second growth coming on rapidly.

Dry weather in South Dakota permitted the crop there to be baled out of the windrow and cured in a very satisfactory condition. Second cutting starting slowly account dry soil. Elsewhere second cutting has made rapid growth and in many places will be ready to harvest within two weeks.

RED CLOVER: Total acreage of this crop very low due to winter killing. Uninjured fields made heavy growth and crop is in process of being put up at this time.

WINTER Crop in Nebraska is splendid. One of the largest in years.

WHEAT: Limited dry weather damage along the southern and southwestern edges of the state. Excellent crop in the northwestern portion and across the line in the southwestern part of South Dakota and along the Missouri River bottoms from Council Bluffs north through Sioux City to Yankton.

FLAX: Earliest fields in Minnesota, South Dakota and northwestern Iowa in full bloom. Stand good and prospects favorable. Considerable late planting with some just emerging.

OATS: This crop will be better than anticipated, especially where on good soil. Some outstanding yields are certain unless a period of extreme heat occurs while the heads are developing. Straw is shorter than usual. Some fields on thin soil have poor stand and considerable weed competition.

SUGAR BEETS: Crop has developed satisfactorily. Few poor stands in late planted fields at Belle Fourche. First irrigation made during the past ten days. Fields in northwestern Nebraska areas in excellent condition with moisture conditions favorable for starting even those planted late.

CANNING Pea canning started in northern Illinois around June 22nd.
CROPS: Over all yield expected to be very large and of top quality unless heat forces premature ripening. Wisconsin peas in splendid condition with first canning under way June 23rd. A crop materially larger than last year is in prospect. Outlook for sweet corn favorable.

RANGES: Grass started late but has developed rapidly during June. Wyoming ranges are in splendid condition. Nebraska Sand hills section in very satisfactory condition with cattle doing very well. South Dakota ranges are turning dry due to lack of June rains. Early growth quite satisfactory account spring moisture.

LIVESTOCK: Crop of spring pigs is large and growers have had splendid results in developing the shoats. There will be an early marketing of the first pigs. These have been crowded and many of them will be sold in August. It is anticipated that most of the crop will reach market about 30 days earlier than usual.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

June was a month of "too much or too little." Temperature and rainfall extremes were quite common. Where flash floods occurred much of the moisture which will be needed later in the season was lost from the land.

The \$64.00 question is the Corn Borer! How hard will it hit and what will it do to the coming crop?? Egg masses are quite numerous and another year of severe loss may occur. More spraying is being done this year and this may check losses to some extent.

June is the month of flash floods. We have had an unusually large number of them this year. When five inches of rain falls within a few hours there is bound to be a terrific run-off. On sloping land a large amount of the best top soil goes with the water. An inch of water over one acre weighs 113 tons; hence, five inches deposits 565 tons of water on a piece of ground 209 feet square. Most of this runs off immediately and the force which it acquires is almost beyond human conception. The erosion was especially heavy in Iowa during June.

There has been a change in Iowa's moisture supply. Early in the spring the soil in this state was so dry that many springs and tile outlets had stopped running. Since the exceedingly heavy rains of June Iowa's top soil is pretty well soaked and the springs and tile are again functioning.

Today's farmer has splendid facilities with which to overcome the handicaps forced on him by Nature. Power machinery enables him to quickly complete work delayed by unfavorable weather. Today's crops are of highly improved and exceedingly hardy, disease-resistant strains. Soil is highly fertile, permitting rapid growth of crops. Fertilizer added at planting time speeds up plant growth.

This is the summer when we can see results from the application of soil conservation practices. Terraces have held the water and grassed waterways have minimized erosion. Stands of row crops planted "around the hill" are much better than those in the traditional checkered pattern.

On May 25th the James River at Huron, S.D. was at high flood stage. Much fertile valley land was under water. As of June 25th the James River was back in its channel but the valley land was still too wet to put into crops. Adjacent table land was needing rain badly and had there been some way of holding the flood water of the river in May the surplus could all be used for irrigation at this time. This is a striking example of what the water from the Oahe Dam at Fort Pierre will do for the 750,000 acres of flat James River basin land in central South Dakota.

THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM)
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND)
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND)
INCLUDING JUNE 26TH.)

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 5
Number 5

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
AUGUST 1, 1950

July was a month of below normal temperatures and above normal moisture. The rains finally reached our dry western territory in South Dakota and southern Minnesota. In Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin above normal moisture was received for the month. Nebraska which suffered the driest June in fourteen years received an unusually heavy amount of July rain. Eight inches fell over the eastern third of the state, double the normal for the month. Harvesting of winter wheat was delayed by excess rain and the quality was damaged to some extent; however, in most cases grain harvesting was completed without serious wind or hail damage.

We enter August with favorable prospects especially for soy beans, potatoes, sugar beets, pastures and late canning crops. The summer has been too cool for corn and it will be a miracle if this crop matures.

CORN: Temperatures during the past ten days have averaged eight degrees below normal. This is too cool for maximum growth. Many fields are short and bumper yields cannot be expected from these. The crop is still ten days behind. An inspection trip on July 22nd along the Missouri River bottoms in the 100 mile strip Sioux City to Council Bluffs, Iowa, failed to show any appreciable tasseling. Very little tasseling noted across central Iowa on the 23rd. A tour of the DeKalb, Illinois section on July 25th disclosed only a few fields showing tassels; however, the hybrid corn company expected to start hand pollinating on the 27th, the same date as in 1949. The situation in Iowa is very unusual in this highly productive area.

Color of the corn is splendid, a dark green which is evidence that abundant nitrates are available. The use of commercial fertilizer stimulated growth. At this writing there seems to be little reason to worry about lack of moisture to "finish" the crop. About two good "soakers" would guarantee this. These should approximate two inches each and come spaced a couple of weeks apart during early August.

The two greatest threats to the corn crop are immaturity in case of an early killing frost and corn borer damage. Regarding the first, it would seem that with almost 100% use of hybrid corn in our territory there would be little danger but what most of the corn would reach maturity. We anticipate the size of the crop will be affected by the cool weather rather than the maturity.

In the case of the corn borer it now seems that the damage may not be as serious as last year. A good deal of spraying has been done and weather conditions apparently were not as favorable for the propagation of this pest as in 1949. It is too early to tell what the damage may total but in view of the fact that there was around a three hundred million bushel decrease in the crop last year due to the borer it would be wise to anticipate that a considerable amount of damage can occur.

CORN:CROP ESTIMATE

(Cont'd)

In spite of the nice things we have said about the corn crop we feel that it will not come up to July 1st estimates. It will take ideal weather in August to produce a three billion bushel crop. The cool weather of early summer has continued through the past ten days; tasseling has been delayed; many fields are short and look to be producers of only a fair crop.

SOY BEANS:

The soy bean fields look very promising and with normal August weather we still predict an all-time record crop. Acreage is very heavy. Stand is good and most fields are clean. Present supplies of moisture are almost enough to make a good crop in the primary producing areas. Prospects are exceptionally good in Iowa where the acreage represents a 41% increase over last year. Generous mid-July rains across the southern half of Minnesota assure a big crop in that area.

WINTERWHEAT:

The heavy and almost continuous rains of mid-July delayed harvesting of winter wheat in most of our territory; however, the crop is now pretty well in and not too much damage was caused by the delay. Some discoloration has occurred. Yields in Nebraska proved to be better than anticipated. One field reported producing 54 bushels per acre and a good many producing as high as 40 bushels per acre. Protein in the wheat is somewhat lower than normal. Weeds in some bottom land fields in western Iowa caused difficulty in combining where harvesting was delayed by wet weather.

SPRINGWHEAT:

Handicapped by a late start, light stand and some weeds spring wheat has "come through" and looks to be a pretty fair crop. Cool weather is "made to order" for this.

OATS:

The oat crop is good. Straw is short but heads are well filled. At least half of the oats in much of our territory have been bound with a grain binder. Most other fields were windrowed later to be combined. New varieties of oats ripen slowly and frequently late heads delay harvesting to a point where those matured first shell considerably. This is mainly responsible for the rather extensive use of grain binders this year.

PASTURES:

As of this date pastures are wonderful. Livestock belly deep in grass is a common sight and this is the opposite of what is usually in evidence at this time. The large amount of pasture available is creating a strong demand for both cattle and sheep with resulting high prices for these animals. Alfalfa-Brome grass mixtures are proving to have a tremendous carrying capacity.

CANNINGCROPS:

The dry June hurt the early pea crop and seriously hurt late peas in the more southerly territory. A wet July proved to be just right for late peas especially in Wisconsin and some parts of Minnesota. Quality of the early crop was splendid. Cool nights helped keep the peas tender and they were not forced beyond capacity of the canneries. Canning of late peas was still in progress in Illinois on July 27th.

Sweet corn never looked better and there should be an exceedingly large crop. Outlook for other canning crops very favorable in practically all of our territory. Northern Illinois canners expect to start packing corn about August 17th. Last year August 12th was their starting date.

HAY: Second cutting alfalfa in the southern part of our territory rather light. Heavy yield promising in the more northern areas. In the irrigated valleys of Nebraska second cutting yielding about $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons dry weight at the dehydrators. Third and fourth cuttings promise good yields resulting from recent rains.

The wild hay crop is light but of good quality.

BARLEY: Barley has withstood various handicaps and in many sections is going to make quite good yields. At Woodstock, in northern Illinois, a 120 acre field of Moore looks to average 50 bushels per acre. Barley test plots at the University of Wisconsin were badly blown during mid-July storms and what would have been an outstanding crop has probably been reduced by one-third. Some outstanding fields in northern Nebraska.

FLAX: Straw short but pods numerous and well filled. Some outstanding fields where local rains came at the right time.

RANGES AND LIVE-STOCK: A trip across the Nebraska Sand Hills in mid-July showed ample grass with cattle in splendid condition. Cows apparently milking heavy, and calves developing rapidly. Should be many 400 pound weights by October 1st. Yearling steers in splendid condition and dry cows ready for the killer. At Belle Fourche, S.D. auction on July 13th many dry cows in splendid flesh brought from \$21.00 to \$23.00 per cwt. Ranges in that area dry but ample cured grass to carry the cattle. Wyoming ranges in pretty fair condition. High market prices will start movement of range livestock on a big scale in early August.

POTATOES: A record crop of potatoes is in the making. On the smallest acreage planted since 1876 we will have one of the largest crops ever produced and apparently about fifty million bushels more than necessary to fill anticipated needs. New high-yielding varieties, big machinery, fertilizer, use of chemicals for spraying and a large amount of irrigation are the factors. Potatoes in our central and northern Wisconsin territory about one week late but developing rapidly.

The crop in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota, which was flooded until late spring, is well up to average and many fields were seen in bloom on July 20th and 21st. Recent rains insure a satisfactory crop in northeastern South Dakota.

Potatoes have been a political football for the past five years. In spite of a greatly curtailed acreage, science and a far-seeing group of producers have doubled the yield per acre in recent years.

SUGAR BEETS: Outlook for this crop exceedingly favorable. Most fields clean, stands good and prospects for a big crop are exceptionally bright. The crop in the newly developed valleys of western Nebraska promise far above average yields.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

400 West Madison Street Chicago, Ill.

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

 Volume 5 CROP REPORT
 Number 6 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD SEPTEMBER 1, 1950

Resort area climate of the North Woods moved southward into the Corn Belt this year. It has been a wonderful summer for humans, grass, small grains and some vegetable crops. In a good corn summer people simmer - this year they hunted extra blankets.

CORN: August was an abnormally cool month with excess moisture in many places but dry toward the end in parts of the Corn Belt. Corn, our greatest crop, "took a licking." Its progress was impeded by the cool weather. The crop was planted late and both July and August were too cool with the result that the corn, as of this writing, is very backward.

It will take an unusually favorable September to mature the corn crop. Our August 1st estimate of the U. S. crop called for three billion bushels; however, at this writing, we would estimate a two and three-quarter billion bushel crop will be the maximum with a possibility that one half of that might not mature.

An inspection trip on Saturday, August 26th, found many fields in the Elburn-DeKalb-Malta-Rochelle, Illinois area, west of Chicago, with no ears dented, very few beyond the "roasting" stage and a large percentage just past fertilization and entering the "blister" stage; also, a good many ears with unfertilized tips. This is a section which is usually capable of producing many fields of 100 bushel per acre mature corn.

The above also applies to most of the crop in our territory. Iowa corn, in particular, is very backward, with uneven fields and many spots of short stalks with irregularity predominating.

Early frost has already struck in many areas. Corn was damaged seriously in the Sioux Falls, S.D. territory over the week-end of August 20th. Our local representative at that point estimates from 30% to 50% damage. Low spots in northern Iowa were also affected with much of the corn in the northern half of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan also hurt.

Corn is a semi-tropical plant. It needs both heat and moisture to thrive. It is also very tender and one of the most highly susceptible to frost damage.

SOY BEANS: There is an exceedingly large growth of this crop. Color is good and if we get enough warm weather there should be a large crop. Like corn the beans have not progressed as rapidly as usual. Pods have formed in most fields and with some warm dry weather during the next three weeks the crop should be a satisfactory one.

Soy beans have one advantage over corn. They mature much more quickly. Not infrequently many fields of beans are completely "made" by September 1st. Beans in the southwestern Minnesota territory were injured by frost over the week-end of August 20th.

SMALL GRAINS: The unusually cool summer was ideal for these crops. Almost without exception they turned out better than we thought possible. Even South Dakota, which seemed to be exceptionally dry during May and June, has come up with some pretty fair crops of grain. The harvest has been late. Some fields were still being cut in northern Illinois on August 26th and on August 24th many combines and binders were seen at work in Wisconsin fields.

The oat crop, while spotted in yield, was of wonderful quality with exceptionally heavy test weights and top feeding value. Fields mudded in last spring turned out poorly. Some of the finest and heaviest oats were seen in Wisconsin where the cool summer proved a blessing to this crop. Quite a few 80 to 90 bushels per acre yields reported in Illinois.

Barley yields have been surprisingly good.

Spring wheat matured satisfactorily and in our big producing sections of Minnesota and South Dakota yields have ranged from 12 to 20 bushels per acre.

PASTURES: Pastures have continued very good. The cool weather has been almost ideal for providing maximum summer grazing.

HAY: Heavy mid-summer rainfall resulted in a big, late hay harvest. Third cutting alfalfa is yielding heavily in our more southern territory, while second crop is producing an exceptionally large volume in our more northerly section. Second crop clover is also yielding well. Many hay balers noted at work throughout our territory during the past two weeks. Loads of green bales have been seen headed for storage on nearly every farm. This should make for an abundance of top quality livestock feed during the coming winter months.

CANNING CROPS: Sweet corn, the number one late canning crop, was retarded by the cool season. Corn packing started at DeKalb, Illinois, August 24th this year compared with August 8th a year ago. This is typical of the lateness of the crop. Ears are free from blemish and the quality is good. Last year some canning companies in northern Illinois started packing the last of July and ran through to the first week in October. This year most of the packing will be in late August and September.

The tail end of the pea crop was of as good quality as the earlier production. This was due to cool weather during July and into early August.

Tomatoes have been extremely retarded by the cool weather. Like corn the tomato is a semi-tropical plant and needs heat. An early freeze would catch the bulk of the crop at an immature stage.

SUGAR BEETS: This crop looks exceptionally promising. The season has proven almost ideal for its development. Many $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 pound beets were seen in the western Nebraska-South Dakota area on August 16th. A good many fields on the new Mirage Flats Reclamation project in northwestern Nebraska give promise of 20 bushel per acre yields.

POTATOES: Shipments from most areas two weeks later than usual. Where digging has started yields are satisfactory but the spuds tend to be immature and lose considerable skin in washing. Some frost damage in our northern producing areas on August 20th and 21st. Lack of abundant rain in late August impaired the crop to some extent where irrigation facilities were not available. However, in the main, the crop is very good.

LIVESTOCK SITUATION: With prospects of a large amount of immature corn resulting in a big supply of roughage the demand for cattle in the Corn Belt should be heavy. Feeder cattle prices \$7.00 cwt. higher than last year have tended to restrict buying to date. Grass throughout the range country continues good and many cattle carry sufficient flesh to entice a packer bid.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The corn borer threat has turned out to be somewhat of a "flop." The borers are not nearly as bad as anticipated. Apparently the cool summer "cooled their heels." Even so, we believe it was wise to spray the corn fields and this practice will pay dividends in the future.

On the Mirage Flats Reclamation Project in northwestern Nebraska Ranger alfalfa is the only type produced. Some outstanding yields have been secured. One man baled his first cutting on a nine acre field and got 800 bales. Sample bales wereweighed and averaged 75 pounds which figured the crop at three ton of hay per acre. This is an outstanding example of what irrigation water can do in an area where dry land farming has struggled along on a "hit and miss" basis for the past half century.

An inspection of the Chatham, Michigan Experiment Station near the south shore of Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula on August 21st produced some most interesting observations. One of these was the tomatoes. Because of the abnormally cool season untreated tomato vines had practically no tomatoes on them although they were blooming profusely and had been for five weeks. In adjoining rows hormone treated plants were seen with heavy sets of from 40 to 50 green tomatoes. An occasional tomato was ripening. Usually these hormone treated early tomatoes start ripening at Chatham the first week in August

Steers on an irrigated Brome Grass-alfalfa pasture at the new test farm in the Jim River Valley near Huron, S.D. have made splendid gains this year. They have had an abundance of grazing at all times. Each pen of steers is alternated between two pastures, one pasture being in use while the other is being irrigated. Last year steers similarly handled gained at the rate of 400 pounds per acre of pasture. Indications are that a like gain will be made this year.

Immature corn has no place in the corn crib. Fields of this type carry their greatest value as livestock feed. They should be cut into silage at about the time frost is expected. Silage stacks can be resorted to where it is impossible to construct additional silos. These stacks, resembling hay stacks, have surprisingly little waste and cattle fed on silage of this kind, supplemented with a little protein, normally do remarkably well.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street
Chicago 6, Ill.
OCT 19 1950

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT.

----- UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS -----
Volume 5 CROP REPORT
Number 7 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD October 1, 1950

September was a month of below normal temperatures. This was especially true during the first two weeks. Result - corn which was very immature on September 1st had relatively little chance to increase in weight. The drying process has brought the greater part of the crop beyond danger of serious frost damage.

Heavy frost occurred on the night of September 23rd over the northern half of our territory. Wisconsin temperatures fell as low as 18 degrees. There was considerable frost damage in Minnesota and northern Iowa where the corn was exceptionally late.

CORN: We still anticipate disappointment in husking returns and feel that our September 1st estimate of two and three-quarters million bushels will be about right when actual yield figures are available.

There will be soft ears in most fields if it doesn't freeze until Christmas; however, the crop in south central Illinois, southern Iowa and west into southern Nebraska did a pretty good job of maturing during the past two weeks.

A factor which is bound to affect yields is the comparative shallowness of the kernels and lack of complete fertilization at the tip end. This latter condition occurs to some extent in most years; however, this year it is very common and in many regions the majority of ears have from one to two inches of bare cob at the tip. This could result in a 10% decrease in yield of shelled grain.

A droughty condition which has extended through August and most of September in a considerable area of central Iowa and southern Minnesota will probably result in some light corn in the affected area.

Corn is standing remarkably well and husking will be quite easy after the crop has thoroughly dried. There is very little evidence of borer damage in contrast to conditions existing last year when damage by this pest resulted in approximately 20 bushels per acre being blown to the ground on October 10th.

SOY BEANS: The first beans are reaching market from southern Illinois and yields thus far are about up to expectations. There will be a heavy crop in most areas. Some reduction in the drier parts of Iowa and Minnesota and the September 20th freeze was somewhat of a factor in Minnesota and northern Iowa.

SMALL GRAINS: Late harvest of small grains in the extreme north is about completed. There was some frost damage and some rust; however, in the main, these fields are yielding satisfactorily.

POTATOES: The cool summer and fall proved to be ideal for the potato crop. Yields are very satisfactory in most of our territory, especially where irrigation water was applied. The national potato crop is estimated at 420,000,000 bushels, an average of 230 bushels per acre. This crop is 4% above the long-time average and was produced on 31% less acreage. This is the fifth largest crop ever produced in the United States. It is estimated that 335,000,000 bushels would take care of our needs.

SUGAR BEETS: These are making satisfactory yields and the cool summer did not delay their development. Digging has started in western Nebraska, northern South Dakota and in our Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin territory.

FALL PLOWING: The dry August and early September delayed fall plowing in many areas. Heavy rains received on September 20th in eastern South Dakota and Nebraska, as well as southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, have provided ideal conditions for late fall plowing. These rains amounted to from three to four inches in many places and should put the soil in wonderful condition for next year's crops.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDING: This is well under way. In the main producing areas moisture conditions are favorable for immediate sprouting of the grain. Seed beds are quite satisfactory.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

This has been a splendid fall for starting alfalfa and grass. July and August rains enabled ideal seed beds to be prepared and newly seeded grass got off to a good start.

There shouldn't be too much worry about this year's corn crop. The ten year average (1939-1948) production is 2,900,000,000 bushels and if we get a crop approximating this, even though a considerable part of it in some states is not thoroughly dried, we should be able to get along nicely especially considering the fact that almost one billion bushels of good quality old corn is in storage.

It is estimated that in the 12 months period beginning October 1st, we will use a total of 3,350,000,000 bushels of corn. This breaks down as follows:

Feed for livestock - - -	2,922,000,000 Bushels
Human food and industrial uses - -	284,000,000 Bushels
Export - - - - -	132,000,000 Bushels
Seed - - - - -	12,000,000 Bushels

The dry matter in immature corn is equal to that of the fully matured grain. Tests conducted at the South Dakota College of Agriculture a number of years ago also established the fact that mouldy immature corn when thoroughly dried made a very satisfactory feed for both cattle and sheep.

THIS IS THE LAST REGULAR REPORT OF THE SEASON.

We trust it has proved of some value to you and that we may again number you among our readers when the first report of the 1951 growing season is released on April 1st.

THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM PERSONAL
OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND INCLUDING SEPTEMBER 26th, }

DEC 19 1950

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Chicago and North Western System



Volume 5
Number 8

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CHRISTMAS -
1950

Once more we are here to take a few minutes of your busy day. The Christmas season has arrived and the spirit of the occasion is in the air.

Christmas causes us to think of our friends and even though we be miles apart our hearts are drawn together by the holiday spirit. To overcome the handicap of distance we must place our thoughts on paper.

The confusion of the past year has probably put you in a mood to forget all of the worries of everyday life and enjoy yourself during this festive time. What a year it has been! Everything topsy-turvy. Even the weatherman played havoc with the word "normal." Early winter drought had the people of New York City on a "weekly bath" basis. Many prairie fires occurred in the west. In the spring there was a good deal of wind and tornadoes were rather frequent. Then a cool summer. It has been said that this was a year without a summer. We did have summer but it came at the wrong time. Temperatures in the high 80s prevailed throughout much of October and football was played in Los Angeles on a 104° day in early November.

Christmas is a season of music. Naturally, the carols are our favorites but newer numbers such as "White Christmas" and "Winter Wonderland" add variety. In reality we should be fond of music throughout the entire year for the inspiration it gives us. A few years ago the show "Oklahoma" gave us "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" If we would but adopt the philosophy of that song we would see the bright side of everything about us. In these troubled times we need to try to be cheerful and as light-hearted as possible.

Along with the songs that stay with us down through the years are the "novelty" numbers which come and go. This year it is "Good Night, Irene"; last year "Mule Train" and several years ago "Three Little Fishies" and "Marzy Doats."

In the agricultural world Christmas finds dormancy supreme. The bulbs are below ground and the grain is stored in cribs and bins. We are grateful for the abundant harvest and looking forward to what the new year may have in store for us.

In the plant kingdom there are four cycles to life. These are dormancy, the sprout, the flower and the fruit. As if by magic Nature carries forward through each of these stages. When conditions become right the sprout emerges. This is insignificant, yet within a short time it develops into a plant, then follows the beautiful blossom and the fruit. Then again the period of dormancy.

The span of the human life is not unlike that of the plant. The tiny baby soon becomes a toddler whose main ambition at Christmas is to find what Santa has for him. A few years later this lad is in school, then off to college and before we know it marries and has a family of his own. Eventually he becomes a gray haired man with grandchildren on his knee and filled with the spirit of the verse "He who gives a child a treat, makes joy bells ring in Heaven's street."

A number of years ago at a meeting of the Southern Agricultural Association in Memphis, Tennessee, a beautiful musical program was enacted entitled "The Story of Life." One man told the story of life and this was interspersed with music depicting the various stages of man's career. Naturally, "Rock A Bye Baby" was the opening theme, followed by a hymn "Jesus Loves Me" indicating the little one old enough to attend Sunday school. Then came the patriotic songs - "My Country 'tis of Thee" and "America the Beautiful" representing the youth in school. Following these the college football songs; the marches of the military service; the wedding march and then, once more, "Rock A Bye Baby". To depict approaching old age "When You and I Were Young, Maggie" told a graphic story and, finally, the funeral dirge.

Fifty years ago we skated throughout the winter season; today, we still love skating but in a somewhat different manner. Now we go to the Ice Show and sit through two hours of beautiful music, rhythm, and colorful figures skimming over the ice. Recently, one of these ice shows concluded its Chicago run at 11:00 P M one night, was loaded into a 15 car special train on the Chicago and North Western Railway and opened in Omaha, 500 miles west, at 8:00 P M the following evening.

When the scenes which appear on so many of our Christmas cards were commonplace one hundred years ago, 94% of the energy expended in America came from muscles, either those of man, the oxen or the horse. Only 6% was furnished by machine. Today, the percentage has reversed and 94% of all energy expended is derived from mechanical power. What a helpful change this has brought about in our mode of living and what a tremendous factor it has become in modern farming. We now have time to go to the ice shows and enjoy other fine things in life.

It took the human race quite awhile to appreciate that one horse could do the work of eight men and in recent years we have found that one tractor can do the work of thirty horses and do it much better.

Thus, the farm boy or girl handling a tractor in the field during summer vacation actually does what 240 men could have accomplished in the days of the hoe, the scoop shovel and the pitchfork.

Recently, while attending the Canadian Winter Fair at Toronto, I was impressed with a beautiful display of red apples. Among these were many boxes of the Delicious variety. One of the growers informed me that he had bulldozed out trees of the so-called "wrong varieties" some ten years ago and was now harvesting apples of the popular bright red type. Did you ever stop to think of the number of "wrong varieties" we find in all walks of life? When we recognize these we should be ready to "bulldoze" them out of our minds. Change is bound to occur. The greatest change must come from within a man's head. Not infrequently when we are thinking we are merely re-arranging our prejudices. We are so prone to be guided by tradition and often this is merely an excuse for staying in a rut.

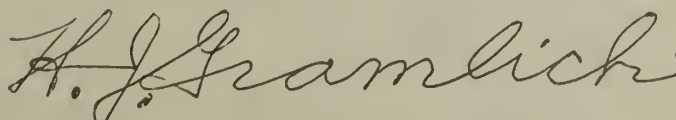
Many of us have felt that the 40 hour week is something new. Actually it goes back many years. Robinson Crusoe is generally credited with having started it because he had all his work done by Friday. Plants and animals on the American farm know nothing of the 40 hour week. They require continuous care and attention. As yet no one has found a cow that did not need milking on Saturday and Sunday.

With all our modern ways it is interesting to realize that every so often we turn back the pages to yesterday. Fifty years ago the square dance was all the rage; then, for many years, it was relegated to the past. Sophisticated youth ridiculed it. Today, it is the number one choice of many who like to "trip the light fantastic." The ladies' fashions of the hour are reverting back to the styles of World War I and it has been said that the most important room in the house today is the attic because that is where you can find the "new look" in an old trunk.

The Chicago and North Western Railway serves the heart of America's great Corn Belt. On a recent morning we had approximately two million bushels of corn enroute to or being delivered to markets. This is only one of the reasons why we are so interested in the welfare of agriculture in the territory we serve and are anxious that agriculture be on a permanent basis.

This letter is our way of letting you know that we are thinking of you and wishing you and yours the best during the holiday season and throughout 1951.

Sincerely,



GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Ill.

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

----- THE LIBRARY OF THE -----
Volume 6 CROP REPORT
Number 1 APR 3 1951 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD April 3, 1950

Snow drifts overhanging creek banks; bottomless side roads; farm autos out on the gravel -- all covered with two inches of fresh snow -- and plows at work on the highways. This was the sight that greeted the eye on the morning of April 1st as the writer rode one of our streamliners across the great state of Iowa. It would have been a common sight on March 1st but coming as it did one month later it proved to be a genuine April Fool.

March, 1951 will go down in history as a month of snow. Over almost the entire territory served by the Chicago and North Western heavy snows were common and in many places winds piled high drifts. Northern Iowa and southern Minnesota proved to be the heart of this late snow belt with as much as 22 inches being received in a number of communities at one time.

The winter has been a long one. Many sections were snowed in late in November and that original snow remained on the ground until the last week in February. There was very little frost in the ground at that time and the warm weather which melted the snow permitted the moisture to soak in. On stalk and stubble fields where the snow held well it will do a world of good.

There has been much inconvenience to residents and farm work has been delayed; however, there is a bright side to this picture. The moisture will prove exceedingly beneficial later on and when the top soil dries the tractors and big machines will make quick work of the field preparation and seeding.

Heavy rains coupled with warm temperatures over the week-end of March 24th-25th caused considerable flooding in Iowa, eastern Nebraska and parts of several other states.

While excess moisture in the form of snow and rain has been received over most of our territory there is still a dry belt in the western part of Nebraska. This extends south to the high plains area of Colorado, Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma where winter wheat has been very hard hit. In Nebraska the wheat still looks quite good and if winds hold off and rains come within a reasonable length of time we could have quite a good crop out there.

Ironically, on March 26th when rain and melting snow were causing floods in northeastern Nebraska a strong dry wind from the south was blowing across the southwestern part of the state creating dust storms.

OATS: As of this writing practically no field work has been done. Snow, low temperatures and wet soil are all contributing factors. There have been years when most of the oats in our territory were planted in March. Five years ago a trip across northern Iowa on the 27th of March showed three-quarters of the spring seeding completed; however, the year following, the same trip was made on a comparable date and no field work had been done. Good crops were produced both years.

There is no cause for alarm as yet. New varieties of oats stand the heat much better than their predecessors and generally speaking, if planting is completed by April 20th very satisfactory yields are produced.

IRRIGATION

WATER: The outlook for ample irrigation water is quite satisfactory. As an illustration the snow depth at Togwotee Pass, above Riverton, Wyoming, on March 1st, was 92 inches. This contained a total of 29 inches of moisture.

POTATOES: The potato picture is a bit confusing. As a result of a series of bumper crops there has been an over-production for a number of years. Without Government support growers have taken quite a loss on their 1950 crop and indications are that the total acreage planted in 1951 will be materially less and even smaller than that authorized by the Government. Plantings of early potatoes in Kern County, California, have dropped 42%.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER: There is a tremendous demand for commercial fertilizers. This is one of the best buys a farmer can make and they have advanced less in price than most other commodities since the war.

OLD CORN HOLDINGS: With increased livestock feeding operations considerable of the old corn reserves have moved out of the picture. Stocks which a year ago seemed to be top heavy are now in a well balanced position.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The demand for oils is very strong and prospects are good for a heavy planting of flax, soybeans and other oil bearing crops.

Livestock operations have been increased perceptibly and with satisfactory financial returns there will be a tendency to increase production of corn and other feed crops.

With a considerable acreage of winter wheat killed off in the southwest it is probable that such livestock feed crops as sorghums will be planted on those acres.

The outlook for sugar beet production is splendid.

Our territory is a little late getting started; however, like the proverbial race between the rabbit and the tortoise the Corn Belt can be counted on to come through with colors flying when the crop season is over.

On March 30th the writer saw a beautiful display of camellias at Portland, Oregon. These had been gathered from outdoor gardens exclusively. A display such as this renews our confidence in Mother Nature. We know that flower gardens over the entire nation will soon be covered with blooms and our fields will be producing big crops of grains and grass.

THIS MARKS THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE GREEN AND THE GOLD FOR 1951. We hope you will find it of interest and value.

- - - -

MAY 7 1951

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILROAD SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 6 CROP REPORT
Number 2 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD May 1st, 1951

Too much and too little! April was a month of too much cold, dark damp weather and too little sunshine and warmth. This just about tells the story. In a way agriculture has been static, with not much change largely because of climatic conditions.

In commenting on this an Iowa farmer wondered if 1951 would be worse than 1950. His recollection of a year ago was that we had only one-half day of summer and unfortunately he overslept that morning and missed it.

Temperatures have ranged about ten degrees below normal. Rather frequent rains and some snow, together with the cool weather, kept top soil from drying and stymied field work. There were exceptionally heavy falls of snow in March throughout Iowa and Minnesota. This melted rapidly early in April and floods started in the headwaters of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers in Minnesota with conditions at Mankato bad during the first week in April. As of this writing the peak of the high waters on the Mississippi is at Muscatine, Iowa.

In the town of Clinton, Iowa on April 27th the water was higher than at any time in the history of the present generation. Back-water in creeks across the river from Clinton extended eight to ten miles up stream with many farm homes flooded.

Our western territory is still dry. The High Plains states have experienced the driest winter and spring in many years. Some rains have fallen in recent weeks but general "soakers" are needed, throughout western Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota. Conditions to the south in the High Plains states are bad.

On April 16th at Clear Lake, Iowa, there were still 22 inches of ice on the lake. This was strong enough to support the weight of an automobile. Prior to this year the latest date recorded for the breakup of the ice on that lake was April 12th.

WINTER Prospects for this crop continue very favorable in much of our
WHEAT: Illinois territory and in western Iowa where it has not been damaged by floods. Conditions are also good in a large part of southern Nebraska; however, western Nebraska is a different story. There is a large amount of winter kill in most sections. While at North Platte, Nebraska on April 26th the writer interviewed Dr. Robert Ranig, Chief Agronomist at the sub-station there and he reported that checks made during the week of April 23rd in their test plots showed survival ranging from as low as 10% to a high of 85%. Several of the high yielding varieties of recent years, including Pawnee and Wichita, were among those showing the heaviest percentage of winter kill. Nebred, a Nebraska wheat, topped the list in survival.

WINTER Deep seeded wheat, especially where thoroughly packed, has come
WHEAT: through best. In a number of instances wheat put in with new
(Cont'd) type drills showed up extremely well. Apparently the abundant
top soil moisture last fall stimulated growth early and then a
lack of late fall and winter moisture resulted in loose top soil. This,
together with very low temperatures of late winter, proved to be hard on
the crop. Nebraska losses appear to have been largely due to climatic
changes.

CATS Cat seeding has suffered a terrific set-back. In our April report
we were hopeful that the weather would improve and delayed seeding
would quickly be corrected. As of this writing most of the original acre-
age intended for cats in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois is not yet
seeded. As of April 21st only 22% of the crop was seeded in Iowa compared
to 88% on the same date a year ago and 95% in 1949 and there are large
areas in northern Iowa and Minnesota where no seeding has been done as yet.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Favorable growing conditions can completely change the agricultural picture in a short time. A number of years ago at Antigo, Wisconsin, on April 20th, the writer was informed that ice houses had been filled a few days before. Much frost was still in the ground and ice on the lakes was 24 inches thick. Two months later a tour in the Antigo area disclosed a large number of red clover fields with a 24 inch growth; the crop almost ready to cut, with prospective yields of three ton of hay per acre.

Sunday, April 29th, due to a sudden warm spell, found large numbers of farmers in the fields across northern Illinois. One chap had the umbrella up over his tractor. He, apparently, didn't want to get sunburned.

One farmer in the proximity of Ogallala, Nebraska believes in being prepared for any emergency. He recently purchased a horse collar, the first the dealer had sold in many years. When questioned regarding this unusual purchase the farmer replied that he had become uneasy at reports of a possible gasoline shortage and he was at least going to have a garden and something to eat no matter what happened.

Power is 90% of the battle in agriculture today. On Sunday noon, April 29th, one farmer was seen operating a horse drawn oat drill. The horses were "wringing wet", obviously too soft to be pushed. He had planted five acres during the forenoon. Down the road a little further a big tractor was dragging tandem disks and a harrow around a field at a rapid rate. Hot, sultry weather made no difference to this modern machine with its 30 h.p. motors. Were we still dependent upon horses agriculture would be in a quagmire this late season. As it is, the big tractors and machines will soon catch up.

Warm weather during the last several days of the month made semi-miraculous changes. Old Mother Nature can accomplish wonders when given half a chance. A 200 mile trip made by the writer on Sunday, April 29th, in north central Illinois gave ample proof of this.

Things are never as bad as they seem. This is a late spring; however, basically, moisture conditions are good and given a few days of warm, dry weather and with the big power machinery capable of operating around the clock, the farmers will do a remarkable job at overcoming the handicaps. Corn can be planted to advantage any time up to May 25th in most regions. Some June plantings have given good results. Soy beans seem to thrive best when planted after the first growth of weeds has been removed. A few day's delay in planting soy beans has very little effect on the total yield. Some June planted beans have done remarkably well.

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THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM)
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND)
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND)
INCLUDING APRIL 29th)

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 6

CROP REPORT

Number 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

June 1, 1951

May was a month of interrupted farm work throughout most of the territory served by the Chicago and North Western Railway. Frequent showers and prolonged cool spells kept farmers out of the fields until well along in the month; however, it ended with corn planters still at work but aside from wet bottom land fields practically all acreage will be in by the end of the current week if the weather remains favorable.

In Illinois weather was almost ideal for planting all crops and the state is in wonderful shape at this time.

Soaking rains were received in western Nebraska, western South Dakota and Wyoming around the 20th of the month. These approximated two inches in most areas. Up until that time these sections had been quite dry.

In the months of April and May Iowa received a total of approximately 9 inches of rain compared to 7 inches a year ago; Wisconsin and northern Illinois received $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, about the same as in 1950; eastern Nebraska 10 inches vs. 5 inches a year ago. Since January 1st Omaha has had $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches compared to $8\frac{1}{2}$ for the same period last year. Central Nebraska $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches vs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in 1950 and western Nebraska approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Southern Minnesota has had only 5 inches compared with $6\frac{1}{2}$ last year; eastern North Dakota is the dry spot with only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in contrast to 6 inches last year. Eastern South Dakota $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches vs. 5 inches a year ago while in western South Dakota 2 inches vs. 3.10 a year ago. These figures indicate that moisture is comparable to last year in most of our eastern sections but it has been a very dry spring in eastern North Dakota and western South Dakota.

During the fore part of the month the balance of the intended acreage for small grains was planted. In Iowa only 44% had gone into the ground by May 1st and southern Minnesota had barely started. Generally speaking, small grain planting was about 30 days late.

Between showers farmers were able to accomplish wonders. Big machinery, ample power and long days did the trick.

CORN: Most fields were in good condition before planting and were well disked and harrowed just ahead of the planters. Low lying tracts had to be left and as late as May 28th a trip across Iowa showed quite a number of fields not yet worked. Fifty fields were seen in the 150 mile strip from Boone to Council Bluffs, Iowa not yet worked and the same day in eastern Nebraska quite a few fields were still waiting for the farmers. Several days of favorable weather had dried the soil and most of these fields were to be made ready during the current week. A lot of plowing and planting was done through the 30th and the state was soaked again that night.

CORN: Corn planted in early June can overcome handicaps. With
(Cont'd.) fertilizer to stimulate growth it would be quite possible to have a near normal crop, however, favorable distribution of moisture and optimum temperatures will be needed. At this writing it is probable that not much over 5% of the corn fields in our territory are still to be planted.

It is probable that some of the most productive corn land will be planted to feed crops because of the slow drying of bottom lands following spring floods. This may have an effect on the size of the total corn crop as in a good year these bottom lands often produce well over 100 bushels per acre.

OATS: While late the crop is growing fast and if June is reasonably cool a heavy yield could result. Prospects are that the straw will be much shorter than usual. Some fields are uneven with a considerable sprinkling of weeds.

WINTER WHEAT: No appreciable change. Late rains will help heads fill. Illinois crop exceedingly promising. Western Iowa river bottom fields badly injured by excess water. Nebraska crop doing pretty well with quite an improvement in prospects in the western part since mid-month rains. Crop in south central South Dakota also quite promising. County Agricultural Agent Harry Kuska of Chadron, Nebraska reports that cool weather during the dry spring saved the winter wheat and the crop there showed a surprising recovery following soaking rains received around May 20th.

SOY BEANS: Early fields are up with stand satisfactory. Heavy plantings made during the past week. Some fields are still to be plowed. Seed beds are in very good condition and exceedingly large acreage will be planted.

PASTURES AND MEADOWS: This has been a wonderful spring for grass. Slow starting but now many meadows are knee high and one sees animals well up to their bellies in wonderful grass mixtures. In Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska a relatively large number of steers and heifers are being fed corn on pasture. These cattle will supply fall beef markets.

ALFALFA: Prospects very good for heavy first cutting. Dehydrators working in Nebraska and western Iowa. Fewer old stacks of alfalfa hay seen in fields than has been the case for many years.

CLOVER: Acreage not large, especially in Illinois, account considerable winter killing; however, crop making rapid growth. Wild hay in the west will yield a comparatively light crop because of the long dry spell during the spring.

On May 28th in the Elkhorn bottoms east of Fremont, Nebraska, farmers were plowing up a wonderful growth of sweet clover. Several fields from 18 to 24 inches high. This should be the makings of a fine crop of corn provided abundant moisture is received in late July and August.

SUGAR BEETS: Stands fine and thinning operations well along. Crop off to a good start. Most fields in western South Dakota and Nebraska two weeks ahead of last year. Generally speaking, acreage in the U.S. is down largely because of labor uncertainty.

POTATOES: Acreage cut in all areas. Planting well along. Early fields up. Some old stock still in pits.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

A Marshall County, Iowa farmer finished planting 350 acres of corn on May 21st. On the 20th he planted 58 acres, with a four row machine. This progressive farmer also has 320 acres of oats. He accomplished all of his spring work with three tractors and their operators and the fields look fine. This is proof that even in a backward season the hustlers seem to overcome the handicaps and get the field work done.

A prominent farmer and manager of a considerable number of farms in the Mason City, Iowa area reports under date of May 16th: "Our farming season opened just about a month late. We usually seed oats the first week in April; sometimes the second, and, occasionally, the last week in March. This year it was May 7-12th on all but the lighter soils.

The ice on Clear Lake, Iowa which we reported as being 22 inches thick on April 16th finally broke up on April 28th, 16 days later than the latest date ever previously reported.

There has been considerable wind recently with some dust in the air. Most of this has been from the north and northwest.

The first new wheat was received at Texas markets during the past week.

A rather thought-provoking sight on May 28th near Pilger, Nebraska - a fertile Elkhorn Valley corn stalk field still untouched because of the extreme wet condition and at the far corner of the field the irrigation well which has been used in previous summers and more than likely will be needed in August to keep the corn crop booming during the mid-summer heat.

Hats off to the tandem disk and two section harrow units. They have perfected seed beds at a rapid pace. One operator and his tractor now accomplish what three men and eleven horses used to handle; furthermore, doing it at twice the speed and with a 50% longer day. Tractors do not get tired!

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PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND)
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400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

JUL 5 1951

Volume 6
Number 4

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
CROP REPORT
July 1st, 1951

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

June proved to be an erratic month in most of the territory served by the Chicago and North Western Railway. The word "too" might well be used in describing conditions. Too cool, too cloudy, too wet, too windy and, in a few spots, we could still say too dry. In spite of all this crops look pretty good other than in disaster regions which, fortunately, are, as usual, rather limited in scope.

Several times during the month the sun burned through and there were indications that the period of excess rain was over; however, these sunshiny days were quickly followed by more heavy rains.

In spite of the terrific handicaps farmers were able to do a good deal of work. The cool, damp weather was wonderful for all small grains and canning crops, especially peas, have flourished. Pastures and hay crops are wonderful. Offsetting this, corn, soybeans, tomatoes and various other warm weather crops are backward.

In many regions excess and rather continuous rainfall has prevented getting acreage planted. This applies to a considerable portion of south-eastern Nebraska and to a good many thousand acres in the Missouri River bottoms in western Iowa; also, to a lesser extent, to bottom lands along other streams.

As an indication of the variations to be found at this time, a trip from Boone to Des Moines, Iowa, on June 18th showed a few fields of corn knee high and ready to be laid by. In others corn was just coming through the ground and all stages were noted between these two extremes. In some fields men were just plowing the ground and in others corn planters were operating; however, most corn fields were well on the way and probably only a week behind normal.

There has been a definite lack of sunshine. Warm, sunny weather is needed; however, not infrequently, following a cool, wet June the weather turns hot and dry. Should this happen most crops could probably overcome the backwardness noted at this time.

The first brood of corn borers seems to be much lighter than last year. A number of sections report only 20 egg masses per 100 plants in early planted fields compared to 100 or more masses in 1950.

CORN: Best described as exceedingly variable at this time. Delayed cultivation because of continuous moisture has given the weeds an opportunity to get started in many places. Illinois farmers have been able to come the closest to cultivating their fields as needed and most corn in the northern half of the state is relatively clean and well cared for.

In Wisconsin and Minnesota excess rains did not come as early as further south and most fields in these two states have been cultivated at least once and are reasonably clean.

CORN: Throughout most of the primary producing sections of Iowa a (Cont'd) pretty fair job of cultivating has been done. Across the state, in the territory tributary to our main line, corn has made good growth and other than where hail hit gives promise of developing into a splendid crop, with the exception of the Missouri River bottom lands where many fields have not yet had last year's stalks cut.

Nebraska has been too wet for corn; however, the primary producing section in northeastern part of the state is in pretty fair shape. Stands are good and aside from being backward the crop looks promising. Excess rain has made it impossible for farmers to cultivate as promptly as they would like.

In South Dakota corn is backward because of cool weather but the stand is good and prospects are favorable.

SPRING SEEDING GRAINS: Cool, damp weather during June was almost ideal for spring seeded grains and if a period of extreme heat does not occur as the grain matures there should be a bumper crop. Prospects in the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota are exceptionally fine. It is quite possible that South Dakota will break all records with this year's production.

OATS: These were planted late and looked ragged and uneven during May; however, most fields at this time look very promising. It is barely possible that some all-time record yields will be harvested.

BARLEY: In most sections this crop looks promising. In areas where heavy winds occurred the grain has blown rather badly; however, in most instances the weather has been nearly perfect for this crop.

SPRING WHEAT: "Heading out" in the major producing sections. There is a rank growth of straw and the chief worry will be one of withstanding storms and remaining free from disease injury. Prospects are exceedingly favorable.

FLAX: Early fields in bloom. Some delayed plantings just emerging but crop is in splendid condition.

SOY BEANS: As in the case of corn, there is a considerable variation, however, acreage is large and stands are good in most fields. A good start has been made. With a reasonable amount of warm weather during the next 60 days we could have an all-time record crop. There is a limited amount of planting still remaining to be done but with early varieties put on these acres, maturity will still be possible. Many fields originally intended for oats, then later for corn, are actually being planted to soybeans.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop is rapidly approaching maturity. Some harvesting already completed in south central Illinois. No serious damage has been done by excess water and we could still have a good crop especially in well drained fields. Prospects in western Nebraska and South Dakota have improved appreciably in the past month. Rains have come about at the right time in most of these areas. The Missouri Bottom Lands around Onawa, Iowa, are flooded out.

CANNING CROPS: All indications point to bumper crops. Pea canning started at northern Illinois plants on June 23rd and in the Wisconsin and Minnesota plants a few days later. Crop will be exceptionally

CANNING CROPS: fine quality as a result of cool, damp June. Yields are very satisfactory. The canning season is expected to run pretty well through July.

Sweet corn making good growth and in most primary producing areas the acreage is all planted.

Root crops slow in starting but making satisfactory growth at this time.

POTATOES: Most of the major potato producing areas in our territory were relatively dry at planting time and acreage was put in with little delay. In the central Wisconsin territory tributary to Antigo generous rains did not fall until the week-end of June 17th and several growers were preparing to irrigate. Secretary Roger Stake of the Wisconsin Potato Growers Association reports crop growing one inch per day with vines 10 to 15 inches high. In the Watertown, S.D. area the crop looks very promising. In the big potato growing sections of the Red River Valley in Minnesota and North Dakota rains came just at the right time. Fields are remarkably clean and vines growing rapidly.

SUGAR BEETS: Developing rapidly. Blocking was done in good time and field cultivators have kept weeds under control. Prospects in the western South Dakota and Nebraska areas which we serve are very favorable. There was considerable hail and storm damage in adjoining territory in the Scottsbluff Valley. Non-irrigated beets in Wisconsin and Minnesota are in very good shape.

PASTURES: "Wonderful" describes the condition of the grass at this time. Near ideal weather has prevailed and it is doubtful if conditions on July 1st have ever been so favorable. This was also true of the entire month of June. Grazing capacity is heavy. In dairy sections the milk flow is in keeping with the condition of the pastures.

ALFALFA: One of the heaviest crops on record; however, a large amount was seriously damaged by excess rains while curing. In Iowa only about one half of the crop is cut. In some areas a large amount has been put into the silo. This is a rapidly growing practice and one which can be used to advantage every year for the first crop.

RANGE CONDITIONS: Rains have been quite general throughout our range areas and grass which started late has made good growth during June. Range livestock is in fine condition and prospects are for a favorable grazing season and satisfactory hay crops.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Extremely violent wind and rain storms struck toward the end of the month. One on June 25th did much damage across northern Iowa. Commercial vegetables growers in the Clear Lake-Mason City-Hanlontown area were exceedingly hard hit.

How quickly conditions change! In January 92 farmers in the vicinity of State Center, Iowa were hauling water for their livestock from town hydrants. Their wells were dry account a series of below-normal rainfall years. Now those same farmers are hoping the rains will let up so that they can get their work done.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (CONT'd)

The new thing in agriculture this year seems to be "rain making." Our Mr. Charles McAdams of the Pacific Northwest territory reports that Washington wheat farmers are hiring experts to make it rain on their "dry land" fields, while the Washington fruit growers in the irrigated valleys nearby are threatening to bring suit if rain at picking time spoils the cherry crop and other soft fruits.

This is a year in which bottom lands are "taking a licking." These fertile overflow areas along streams are great producers. In good years their yields per acre are almost phenomenal. Once every twenty to twenty five years they lose out from flooding at critical times during the planting and growing season. A few years ago one elevator in Harrison, County, Iowa took in 80,000 bushels of new corn in one and a fraction days in early November. Farmers were emptying their cribs to make room for the remainder of their tremendous crop. This year those fields are duck ponds awaiting the fall hunters.

There has been a great deal of bloat among cattle grazing on legumes, especially Ladino and alfalfa mixtures. In cool, wet springs bloat seems to be most prevalent. One of the "hero" crops this year is Bromegrass. This has produced a big growth all season and is a major factor in preventing bloat.

There have been many so-called "cloudbursts". Rains of from five to eight inches within the space of a few hours, giving the appearance of ten gallons trying to get into a five gallon can. Much run-off occurred; much erosion and much flooding. And this water will all be needed in August.

The Missouri River has been nicknamed the "Big Muddy". Each year it carries millions of tons of good top soil from the farms of the Corn Belt. What a job it has been doing at depleting our greatest asset during the past month.

The cool, wet spring retarded the development of available nitrates in the soil. Tall, dark patches in oatfields told what was needed to stimulate growth. This will be a year when fertile soils really respond; also when the use of commercial fertilizer will pay big dividends.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 6 CROP REPORT
Number 5 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD August 1, 1951

At this writing the countryside is a beautiful pattern of deep green alternated with the golden hue of ripening grain. What a sight this is. The name of our report - i.e. - The Green and The Gold - was conceived under just such conditions.

1951 continues to be a freak year. One of violent storms alternated with periods of otherwise abnormal weather. Even so, prospects at this time could be a lot worse.

The first half of July was exceedingly wet and cool. During the past two weeks temperatures have become seasonal and crops have forged ahead rapidly. On all sides we see grain which has ripened seemingly overnight. For instance, in southern South Dakota grain is maturing at least two weeks later than usual, while in the northern part of the state it is just about normal - result - everybody confronted with harvesting problems at the same time and this same condition prevails over the greater part of our territory.

Seldom has there been a year when the farmer has been confronted with more rush jobs at one time. There is some cultivating still to be done, hay to make and harvesting already here.

MOISTURE: The heavy rain and storms which prevailed during the month of June continued over a large part of our territory throughout July. Rains of from 5 to 8 inches were quite common and caused serious flood damage, in lowlands, with excessive erosion and crop damage on slopes. This is especially true in southeastern Nebraska, most of Iowa and parts of southern Minnesota.

A rather peculiar distribution of moisture has occurred. The rainfall pattern over the eastern half of four states, lying directly in line north and south from North Dakota south through Kansas, offers a most interesting observation. From April 1st through July 24th eastern North Dakota has had 6.18 inches; eastern South Dakota 12.47 inches; eastern Nebraska 20.33 inches and eastern Kansas 28.36 inches. A deficiency in North Dakota; just right in South Dakota; too much in Nebraska and disaster in Kansas. Incidentally, eastern North Dakota has been dry most of the season, especially the northern part embodying the famous Red River Valley.

South Dakota, which was dry until late May, has had soaking rains regularly and will produce a near-record crop of all kinds of small grains. Rains in this state fell so gently that there was not enough run-off to fill the stock ponds.

Nebraska has had too much rain, especially the southeastern quarter. The northeastern portion is in pretty fair shape with some exceedingly promising corn and other crops. Wisconsin is in wonderful shape. During May and June it received a total of $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches of moisture, most of which fell gently and crops there are in splendid condition.

CORN. Naturally, our first interest at this time centers on corn. It is a "spotty" crop and one which is hard to size up with a fair degree of accuracy. On many farms one finds fields of near normal height tasseling and in a near-by patch stalks averaging only one to two feet, the difference being due to delayed planting on account of frequent heavy rains during May and early June.

Generally speaking, upland well drained fields which were planted early have lunged forward and at this writing look very promising. Many of these are just about up to normal for the season. On the other hand we cannot be carried away by the high degree of promise in these fields if we are to estimate the total crop. Throughout almost our entire area there are bottomlands which were subject to heavy flooding and our Mr. L. A. Thomas, D.F. & P.A. at Sioux City, Iowa, describes these fields as follows: "Lowland corn has been flooded and washed until it is in very poor condition and in some areas almost non-existent." Some bottomland fields have been planted three times; others stood in mud the greater part of a month and now are struggling with grass competition and a shallow root system. Even on upland farms one finds many yellow spots where corn was seriously stunted by poor drainage. These plants while growing now can never fully develop. In Iowa only 4% of the corn in the state is in tassel compared to a normal of 75%, for this date.

ESTIMATED CROP:

After extensive and careful surveys throughout our territory and many observations in other corn producing sections, we estimate the total U.S. crop at an even THREE BILLION BUSHELS.

It will take a favorable August to make this as, generally speaking, the crop is still from one to two weeks late and continuing to suffer from the above mentioned handicaps. Ironically, it will require considerable rain to do the trick.

A three billion bushel crop of corn is still a lot of corn. We have been spoiled in recent years and many of us forget that prior to 1942 we only produced two crops exceeding three billion bushels. One of these was on an acreage of 101,000,000 compared to the 84½ million acres planted this year. Since 1942 we have had six crops above three billion bushels.

The corn borer threat has all but disappeared, in many of the regions where the greatest damage was experienced a year ago. As a matter of fact it is reported that one Extension Entomologist who had devoted most of his time to corn borer control work during past years recently avoided a farm tour to keep from being "razzed" about the lack of borers.

Illinois is the Number One corn state this year.

SOY BEANS. This crop is more uniformly good than corn. The plants have developed very rapidly during the past two weeks and give promise of reaching a normal stage of maturity in most areas. Stand is good and in most instances fields are clean. In a number of cases land originally intended for corn has been planted to soy beans at a later date and some planting was being done during the current week. These late fields will undoubtedly be used for roughage. In any event, soy beans may prove to be the biggest cash contributor to the income on a good many farms this year.

WINTER WHEAT: Harvesting of this crop is under way and in the main yields are disappointing. Too much rain all spring in Illinois, Iowa and eastern Nebraska and especially during the past month. Winter wheat in our western Nebraska-western South Dakota territory is much better and some high yields are anticipated.

SPRING WHEAT: The large production areas for this crop in our territory received about the right amount of moisture, especially South Dakota, southwestern Minnesota and southeastern North Dakota. There is an exceedingly heavy acreage; straw is rank and heads well filled. Very little rust damage has been experienced largely because of rust-resistant varieties being extensively used and there is comparatively little insect damage.

OATS: Like corn, this crop is quite "spotty" especially in regions where excess moisture prevented planting at normal dates. Iowa, usually the largest oat producing state, was especially hard hit; however, there are many splendid fields there. On July 15th the writer checked a large field north of Marshalltown which stood four feet high with heads exceedingly well filled and straw strong. Dr. Murphy, in charge of the oat breeding work at Iowa State College, Ames, reported all of his plots as being shallow rooted but with the cool, moist growing season he anticipates good yields. He feels that had planting conditions over the state been more favorable this would have been Iowa's all-time record oat year.

Northern Illinois and Wisconsin have many fine fields. One grower at Antigo, Wisconsin, has a 320 acre field which looked good for 80 bushels per acre on July 17th. Most oats are being windrowed as this assures a much better quality.

BARLEY: The acreage of this crop is down but as the grain matures it is obvious that yields will be quite satisfactory. There is considerable "down" grain, especially where grown on highly fertile soil. Some very promising new varieties are about to be released. These possess strong straw, high malting qualities and high yield tendencies.

FLAX: The season has been favorable for this crop. In most major producing sections disease resistant varieties have been used and the crop is healthy and promising. There is, however, considerable rust on the "Dakota" variety.

HAY: The first cutting can best be described as the heaviest on record, and when finally cured, of the poorest quality. One field seen in windrow on July 25th had been cut July 4th and pushed back and forth ever since. A large amount of alfalfa was made into grass silage. Some hay which lost all of its feed value was burned when it finally dried out. In one instance bales standing on end were noted after the second growth had reached a height of 18 inches. The feed value of such hay is very low. With the drier weather of the past week the second cutting of alfalfa is going into the stack green and the quality is very good. Late cut clover is also of good color although the plants are too woody.

PASTURES: These have remained good throughout the month and there are relatively few signs of dry weather damage. Stock is in exceedingly good condition.

RANGE Range conditions are splendid. It is doubtful that the Sand Hills
CONDITIONS: area of Nebraska and the western half of South Dakota have ever
experienced a year when grazing conditions have been better and
this also applies to most of our Wyoming territory. Cattle and sheep should
be in excellent condition.

A native in central South Dakota commenting on the splendid range
conditions mentioned that on his place a cow could get all she could eat by
just standing still and reaching in all directions. In contrast to this he
remembered the drought years of the 30s when vegetative growth was so scarce
that grasshoppers flying across the state "carried their lunch with them."

CANNING Pea crop is wonderful due to an ideal season; yields are heavy and
CROPS: of top quality. Sweet corn and other late crops are progressing
satisfactorily.

POTATOES: This should prove to be the "potato man's year." Decreased acreage
and adverse growing conditions in a number of areas will cut
total production. Kansas and Missouri floods have pretty well eliminated the
crop in those states. Drought conditions in the Red River Valley at this
time are curbing prospects there. The crop in our Wisconsin territory is very
promising with early fields well advanced. Some digging started on the 23rd
in the Rice Lake-Sarona-Galloway sections. A tour of the Antigo Flats in
Langlade County shows exceedingly good prospects there. Sufficient rainfall
to preclude the necessity of irrigating to date. The Watertown-Clark area
in South Dakota has a wonderful crop almost made.

SUGAR The acreage of beets is cut in most of our territory largely
BEETS: because of labor factors. The outlook for the crop is very good
other than where hail damage occurred. In the Belle Fourche
Valley of South Dakota the crop is far ahead of last year and in the northern
Nebraska districts the outlook is equally favorable. In northern Illinois,
Wisconsin and in the Minnesota-northern Iowa regions satisfactory yields
are anticipated.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

This has been a great year for grass. Cool, moist conditions have
produced an exceptionally large growth. In mid-July spring seeded red clover
in oats was noted blooming in central Iowa. In DeKalb County, Illinois, in a
mixture containing southern alfalfa a number of blooms were seen. This was
in a field where oats had been seeded light but had stood into a pretty
heavy crop.

Bert Groom, former Secretary of the Greater North Dakota Association,
is raising his 51st crop at Langdon in northeastern North Dakota. He
states that on June 1st he had the best prospects of his entire experience
but that now he anticipates as poor a crop as he has had in the last 15
years. Good rains in late May and early June but practically none since.
On the other hand, at the North Dakota State College in Fargo on July 24th
the writer saw wonderfully promising small grain crops, almost matured.
Several good June and July rains accomplished this.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
 400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

 Volume 6 CROP REPORT
 Number 6 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD September 1, 1951

August was a cool, wet month - ideal for humans, potatoes, grass and various other vegetation, but not the kind of weather that corn, tomatoes and other hot weather crops need. Nights were unusually cool.

A large number of bad wind storms occurred during the month, usually accompanied by excessively heavy rains. In some places from five to six inches fell and four inch downpours were quite common.

CORN As of August 28th the corn crop is a "question mark." There is a wide range in stages of development and, to a large extent, this is due to date of planting. Early corn is well along and with a warm, dry September should make a big crop of pretty sound corn. Corn planted in late May and all through June is very backward and it will be a miracle if this reaches normal maturity. It is well to remember that there was a considerable amount of this late planting over most of the Corn Belt.

At this date last year corn was uniformly backward; however, the warm September and October weather, together with freedom from frost, enabled it to mature. At this writing early corn is in about the same position as was most of the 1950 crop last September 1st.

A farmer in southeastern Nebraska reports that he has a 10 acre field which will yield 70 bushels per acre of mature corn. His other 70 acres, planted late, ranges down to knee high. Last year his crop of 80 acres on the same farm averaged 70 bushels per acre.

Inspection of a good many fields in the Lincoln, Nebraska area on August 27th showed only one patch beyond the "roasting ear" stage. Variety comparisons made at the experiment station bore out the observation made in farm fields. There is an unusual amount of grass and weed competition.

An inspection of variety test plots at the South Dakota Experiment Station, Brookings, S. D. on August 22nd revealed all stages of development - i.e. - just tasseling; newly fertilized; blister, milk and roasting ear. In the latter class were the so-called "90 day" varieties. Planting of all plots had been done on May 8th - quite an early date. Conditions at Brookings are quite similar to those in southern Minnesota, northern Iowa and a considerable part of Nebraska.

The crop in Illinois is the most uniformly advanced of any state we serve and an all-time record crop could be produced there providing the new fungus disease does not become serious.

In one sense corn has "gone modern" this year. It is trying to follow the style and a good many fields have slim ears which will take considerable heat to put the depth in the kernels and produce the usual plumpness.

The question today is not so much how big a crop of corn will we have but what will the quality be.

CORN: A few general observations on corn at this date are as follows:

(Cont'd)

- 1 - In most cases the verdant plant development looks wonderful from a distance but close inspection reveals that it is not as good as it looks.
- 2 - A view from above shows yellow spots in many fields.
- 3 - There is a big variation in development due to date of planting; character of soil and amount of cultivation.
- 4 - Close inspection reveals that outside of a few favored areas the crop has a long way to go.

On August 1st we estimated the nation's total crop would not exceed three billion bushels. We have not changed our opinion on this and as of this writing would expect the total crop of fully matured, sound corn to fall considerable below that figure.

GRAIN Harvesting has been a long drawn out job this year. There are some HARVEST: uncut fields; others are in the swath and combining is the order of the day, on many farms. There are an unusually large number of "shocked" fields and considerable thrashing is taking place following the wet spell of last week. Some grain, especially that in shocks, has sprouted and this is resulting in lighter test weights and poorer grading.

In a 2,000 mile trip last week the writer saw only one setting of stacks. What a year this would have been to have stacked grain but that is a lost art and few today would or could display the skill and workmanship necessary to build the stacks.

OATS: In the main oats are yielding better than anticipated. This is especially true of earlier planted fields. The grain is heavy - testing 38 to 40 pounds. Late planted oats failed to stool and the yield has proven to be correspondingly light. A swathed field with alfalfa was noted near Chicago this week with sprouts six inches long on the grain.

SPRING WHEAT: This is making a very big crop. Some sections were hit by Black Rust and yields cut to some extent; however, by and large, the heaviest total crop of spring wheat South Dakota has ever produced is in the making and there is a very satisfactory crop in North Dakota.

FLAX: Cutting of this crop is reaching its peak. Yields will be irregular. Many fields seeded to old varieties were hard hit by leaf rust; however, where rust-resistant varieties were used yields will be exceedingly heavy. One field of a new variety at Brookings, S.D. was in the shock and estimated to make 25 bushels per acre. Scientists are continually developing new varieties of flax. As Dean Eberle of the South Dakota Agricultural College remarked "Nothing is permanent. We must keep coming up with new varieties to meet new diseases and pest conditions." This, of course, also applies to all other crops.

POTATOES: Another great year for this crop. The cool, wet summer has resulted in terrific yields. Considerable weed growth has occurred late in the season. Harvesting of the earlier crop was delayed by wet field conditions. Mechanical harvesters are being used to a considerable extent. The first "Reds" from Watertown, S.D. have been received on the Chicago market. Wisconsin yields and quality are good.

BARLEY: In the major producing sections barley is making 30 to 40 bushels per acre. The "Kindred" variety is still proving to be the most popular in South Dakota.

SUGAR Beets developing splendidly and the outlook is for big yields
BEETS: except in sections hit by hail.

CANNING Sweet corn harvest started late account the backward season but
CROPS: yields are heavy the the quality splendid. Some factory stoppage account slow development of the crop. Comparatively little borer damage. Red beets and carrots yielding well. Tomatoes adversely affected by the cool weather, ripening very slowly and a considerable amount of "spotting." Cucumbers have also been held back by the unseasonable weather.

SOY Soy beans continue to look promising. The bulk of the plants are
BEANS: podded and if the frost holds off a few weeks most of them should mature. There is a very heavy acreage and in the main the fields are clean. Inspection of variety test plots at Lincoln, Nebraska on August 27th revealed most varieties podded with beans plump and pods well filled on the Earlyana and Mukden varieties.

PASTURES: This has probably been the best season in history for pastures. Rains came about as needed to keep the grass growing. There is a world of pasture in all of our territory. Ranges are wonderful and cattle and sheep should come to market in exceptionally good shape.

HAY: The rains in August interfered with haying to a considerable extent. There is a very large crop for the year but most of it is low quality. Some second cutting alfalfa put up during July and early August in prime condition.

CATTLE: Range stock moving to market in light numbers. Thus far there have been several buyers for every pen of cattle and prices have been exceedingly high. Corn Belt farmers have a tremendous amount of roughage for fall grazing and are anxious to make purchases.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Modern grain harvesting methods have produced a headache at grain elevators. Under favorable conditions the grain crop of an entire area can all be combined and marketed in a short span of a few weeks. In the old days marketing grain was carried over a period of five months. This enabled elevators, railroads and terminals to handle the crop in a satisfactory manner. Generally speaking, farmers in surplus grain areas will not build storage facilities. If they were to do this many of these marketing problems would be simplified.

Minnesota was so wet last spring that planting was strung through the greater part of a three month period. Some grain was actually put in late in June. A field of this late planted flax was noted in bloom in the western part of the state on August 22nd. A near-by field of barley was still green.

A chap who farms in the hills of western Iowa says it has been so wet that water is oozing out of the yellow clay and the corn is almost as yellow as the clay. Quite a contrast to conditions last winter when wells in central Iowa were going dry.

THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS)
AND REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND INCLUDING AUGUST 28th.)

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 6 CROP REPORT
Number 7 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD October 1st, 1951

Summer is about over! It hasn't been a warm one. Driving through a snowstorm in the Black Hills of South Dakota for an hour on September 20th and a white frost across eastern South Dakota from Huron to Brookings two mornings later, impressed the writer with this fact. A shivering taxi driver in Minneapolis on the evening of the 26th summed up the season by saying that we were going direct from winter to winter.

CORN: WILL IT HAPPEN AGAIN??? This is the question of the day. Much of the corn is in about the same position as a year ago October 1st. Then the frost held off and October turned warm and dry - thus a near-miracle happened and most of the corn matured although this had seemed almost impossible on September 1st.

Light frost in most of South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin has checked growth in these states and the current cool spell may bring frosts southward into the heart of the Corn Belt.

Several very favorable days for drying corn occurred during the third week in September. There was a strong breeze, temperatures in the 80s and low humidity - just what the crop needed. While there will still be immature corn in many areas much of the crop is now safe from serious damage. There will be soft ears in the fields which were planted late.

Farmers with livestock are planning to utilize the bulk of their immature corn. Unfortunately, much of the immature corn is in areas where the greater part of the grain is normally sold as a cash crop. Generally speaking early corn is quite close to maturity. Husks brown, kernels firm, leaves and stalks green. On the 26th a trip across northern Iowa and north from Mason City to Minneapolis disclosed many fields in this condition and, furthermore, possessed of big, heavy ears.

We still feel that the total crop will not exceed three billion bushels and as of this date it appears there will be approximately 15% immature, light and chaffy corn.

SOY BEANS: This crop has done a relatively better job of maturing than has the corn. On September 22nd the writer noted a surprisingly large number of fields across southern Minnesota in which the bean plants had shed all leaves and in many others the leaves were yellow and gave evidence of being about ready to drop. Only a small percentage of the fields failed to show some yellow. These observations were made across the bean producing territory from Lake Benton through Springfield, Sleepy Eye, New Ulm, Mankato, Waseca, Owatonna and Rochester, Minnesota. In Illinois early combining indicates larger yields than anticipated with a number of 30 bushels per acre averages reported and some up to 40 bushels.

FLAX: A portion of this crop still remains to be cut. Yields are running relatively low in much of the territory served by the C&NW due to the effect of leaf rust and an especial effort is being made to get seed of rust immune varieties for next year's planting.

SMALL GRAINS: Some late harvesting still taking place and combines were seen in northern South Dakota last week. Considerable shock threshing still remains to be done in some areas, due to frequent late summer rains preventing drying.

POTATOES: Harvesting of this crop has been delayed by wet weather. In some Wisconsin and Red River Valley districts not over half has been dug. The total U.S. crop has been sufficiently reduced to make for a healthy supply and demand market without subsidization. Late blight has caused deterioration in some areas.

SUGAR BEETS: Harvesting has started and higher yields than last year are anticipated in a number of districts. The acreage is down, however, and the total tonnage is expected to be lower.

FALL PLOWING: A tremendous amount of fall plowing has been done in the northern areas with farmers working at maximum speed to complete the work before the ground freezes. Delay in getting spring work done account bad weather during the past two years is responsible for this urgent action. Heavy soils such as those in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa are difficult to work in the early spring and unless fall plowed trouble is frequently experienced in getting spring small grains planted by the desired dates.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS: Plantings in eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska and South Dakota up to a splendid start. There is ample moisture and the crop is going into the winter under much more favorable circumstances than last year. Hessian Fly free dates made it possible for plantings to get well under way in all territories during the past ten days. Acreage in eastern Nebraska is pretty well in; however, it is still too wet for seeding in much of the Missouri valley area between Omaha and Sioux City. This section has been seriously hit by periodic floods all season and the bulk of this year's crop was lost.

ASTURES: Remain good - unusually so for this time of year. Stock in splendid condition.

RANGE TERRITORY: Range grasses have made a very vigorous seasonal growth and there is a large amount of feed throughout the range country. Stockmen have refrained from selling in order to make maximum utilization of their late grazing. With the advent of cooler weather and the possibility of early storms look for a very heavy movement of range stock during the next few weeks. Prices are very high but Corn Belt men with large supplies of grass silage and low grade hay as well as considerable immature corn are doing everything possible to make purchases.

THIS IS THE LAST REGULAR REPORT OF THE SEASON.

We trust it has proved of value to you and that you have enjoyed this and previous reports as much as we have enjoyed bringing them to you. We will plan on bringing you some Christmas philosophy in a special December issue and our first report of the 1952 growing season will be released on April 1st.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS
RECEIVED UP TO AND INCLUDING SEPTEMBER 27th.



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JAN 9 1952
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 6
Number 8

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CHRISTMAS -
1951

Once more we are here with best wishes for the approaching holiday season and with our last pseudo-journalistic effort of the year.

What a year it has been! Freakish and eccentric - predominantly wet and cool, with a few samples of the other extremes. Central Iowa farmers hauling water from municipal wells in mid-winter because of dry farm wells - later to experience the wettest season on record. The High Plains area plagued by drought and quite worried until wonderful soaking rains fell at the end of May. Many wind storms and very heavy blizzards, especially in Minnesota and northern Iowa during February and March. Ice on Clear Lake, Iowa 22 inches thick and strong enough to support an automobile on Sunday, April 15th.

Yet in spite of all this we have a good deal for which to be thankful. This has been a wonderful year for grass - probably the best in a century. The cool weather was fine for oats. Soy beans, the miracle crop, came through with flying colors.

Corn struggled along all season. Late going into the ground; held back by cool weather and not given half a chance to thrive during the summer months. Even now corn is high in moisture with many fields containing from 40 to 50%. However, there is a bright spot even in the corn picture. Illinois has a splendid crop. Ben Courtright, a grower in mid-state, came mighty close to hitting the 300 bushel per acre goal with a yield of 256 bushels per acre on a 15% moisture content basis.

Big machinery again proved the hero of the day. Powerful tractors equipped with headlights and run by willing operators who know nothing of the 40 hour week made it possible to do a pretty good job of farming under all sorts of handicaps. Another thing for which we are thankful is that farmers are becoming more conscious of the necessity for being careful while operating these big, powerful machines.

At a recent dinner honoring 50 year shippers to the Omaha Livestock Market an 88 year old veteran told how his mother the first season she had spent in that territory, had produced 20 bushels of corn entirely by the use of the hoe. This was considered quite a feat as even in those days a stalwart man using a hoe considered 24 bushels maximum production. The modern farmer with his mechanical equipment can produce 30,000 bushels or its equivalent.

So much for shop talk.

A man who truly represented these times and who did much to bring happiness to us, recently passed to his reward. Sigmund Romberg, a native of Hungary, who came to America as a boy and worked in a New York factory for \$7.00 per week, later developed into a man whose name and work will be remembered for all time. His rolly-poly figure bouncing about as he led his orchestra through his beautiful compositions left a lasting impression on the minds of thousands. What pleasure music brings to our lives. During the Christmas season we are especially conscious of this but the beautiful melodies left to posterity by Romberg give pleasure during the entire year.

Do we do enough "boasting" about our home community? Nearly every spot is famous for something. Worthington, Minnesota boasts of being the "Turkey Center"; Mechanicsville, Iowa considers itself the "Pork Center" of the world; Decatur, Illinois claims the title of the "Soy Bean Capitol" and Windom, Minnesota brings of being the "Flax Capitol." Stuart, Iowa comes up with a somewhat different angle - at the entrance to the town is a sign reading "Home of 1,600 good eggs and a few stinkers." And so it goes. How about a little more civic pride?

We are living in an era of nerves. The pace at which we are going today tends to make us this way. Everything is done on a "split second" basis. A split second is the time which elapses after the street light turns green and the chap behind you honks his horn.

The long-time outlook for agriculture would seem to be sound. The population of the U.S. is increasing at the rate of approximately 2,000,000 per year and it is estimated during the next 25 years we will have a 25% increase. This will necessitate more food. We now eat one-third more meat per year than we did during the five year period 1935-1939. It is estimated that there are 50,000,000 acres now in cultivation which should be in grass or trees and our problem of the future is one of increasing per acre production on the good land in the U.S. in order that enough food may be produced to supply our ever expanding population.

There is a mad scramble going on for acre use on every farm. The flax producers feel there should be an increased acreage in flax and the barley men, soy bean producers, corn growers, etc. all feel that their crop should be the favored one. With the total acreage of the country limited it becomes obvious that the agriculture of the future is, of necessity, going to be builded on greater production per acre for any one of these specific crops rather than an increased total acreage for them.

Our appetites are being whetted for a big Christmas dinner. We hear much about the turkey, pumpkin pie and all the trimmings. For years our holiday dinners have been builded around the use of certain foods. Much of the actual enjoyment people receive comes from spices and seasonings. As a matter of fact we live in an age of high seasoning. Most youngsters like bologna, hot dogs and other ground meats because of the seasoning. To a great extent seasoning determines the flavor.

At a recent banquet in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan a small red potato had been placed at each plate. During the program the County Agricultural Agent asked the guests to take the potato home and next spring cut it into four seed pieces and plant them. He stated that each would harvest eight potatoes from each hill in the fall of 1952. Then, if the thirty two potatoes were cut into quarters in the spring of 1953 one hundred and twenty eight hills would be planted and if this plan were carried on through the spring of 1956 each person would harvest over one million potatoes. In other words, starting with the little potato the size of a golf ball a person could, in four years, increase this to one million full sized spuds. This is but another of the romantic stories of agriculture.

How things have changed since that first fall when the Pilgrim fathers gave thanks for the crops they had produced. Do you ever stop to think how hard the Pilgrims had to work to produce these crops? The Indians had told them of their corn and furnished them some seed. With hand hoes the colony went forth and chiseled out of the rocky, grass covered hillsides 100,000 holes into which went the corn kernels. They then placed 40 ton of fish around the hills where they hoped for a corn crop. The Indians had told them the fish would supply the necessary fertilizer upon which the crop would exist.

In those days everybody ate at home. Last year in the United States one fourth of all the food consumed was handled through the restaurants and hotels. The public feeding of people has become the third largest retail business in the country and involves a ten billion dollar turnover. However, most Christmas dinners will be served in homes.

How proud we should be that we are Americans. America is the greatest country in the world in five respects. We are the best fed, the richest and best educated. We can justly be proud of the degree to which we excess in these three.

The other two are not much to brag about. We are the most wasteful of all people. We are careless of our human resources, our soil, water, food and our mineral resources. We are only beginning to touch on conservation and until we realize it's full significance we will continue to be the world's most wasteful people.

Lastly, we are the biggest "crabbers" in the world. We complain about this and that. Fortunately, we live in a country where we can do this. Were we behind the Iron Curtain any utterance in the nature of a complaint would undoubtedly be disastrous. It is alright to complain occasionally; however, we should not overdo it. We might become chronic "sourpusses" and find that even our best friends would dislike us. A smile such as that on a youngster's face on Christmas morning is far better than a tightly drawn expression obviously anxious to express dis approval of somebody or something.

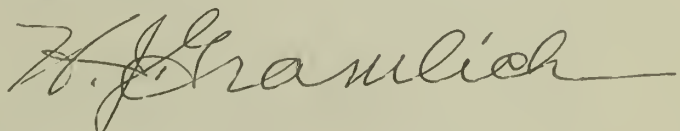
The center of population in the United States is in a cornfield. We feel this is rather fitting. The corn fields of America have been the center of her operations for years. More wealth comes out of the corn fields than out of all other acres devoted to grain. The center of population is gradually moving west. This year for the first time it is in Illinois. It started east of Baltimore in 1790 and worked west as pioneers gradually settled the midwest and later the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast areas.

At the time the first census was taken buffalo roamed the plains throughout the agricultural empire now served by our railroad. Recently, it was our privilege to handle a carload of these rugged beasts from a game preserve in the Black Hills of South Dakota to Chicago where they were on display in connection with the great International Livestock Exposition.

In closing let me say it has been a pleasure to bring our reports to you throughout the year and we hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as we have enjoyed preparing them.

May the holiday season and the year 1952 hold much in store for you and yours.

Sincerely,



GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street

Chicago 6, Ill.
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HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

----- -APR-18 1952 -----
Volume 7 CROP REPORT
Number 1 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS April 10, 1952

-This is the first issue of the Green and the Gold for the 1952 season. Spring is here - late to be sure - yet full of possibilities. Nature's tiny "bundles of energy" are about to be placed in the ground and within a few months machinery will be in the fields harvesting the first crops produced from these seeds.

We come out of the winter with an abundant supply of moisture in all sections. Prospects are splendid providing the fields dry in time to plant under optimum conditions. Pastures and meadows should come along rapidly with warm weather. Excess snow coverage in most of South Dakota is currently causing floods. The spring planting season in that state is already delayed with only the extreme western part escaping a long series of winter snow storms, but even there abundant moisture fell to provide ideal seed beds.

CORN: There is still some unhusked corn in the fields. The wet, cold fall prevented complete harvesting of the crop and mid-winter thaws made the fields too wet to work. A considerable part of the wettest of the 1951 corn crop has been sold or fed to livestock but there is still some on hand which will cause trouble when warm weather sets in. Livestock feeding has been unusually heavy and in some areas considerable of the Government owned reserve has been sold to stock feeders.

Actual holdings of corn are lower than they have been for several years and it will be doubly important this year to harvest a big crop of this all-important grain. Few people realize that a human being consumes more corn than a hog. This, of course, is primarily in the form of foods produced from corn - i.e. - milk, meat, eggs, poultry, etc.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop looks exceptionally promising in all of our territory. An abundance of moisture last fall got the crop off to a good start and a heavy snow coverage in the important areas helped bring it through the winter unharmed. There is ample top soil moisture. Acreage in the Missouri River bottoms of western Iowa is lower than usual due to last year's serious floods throughout that area. Prospects are exceedingly favorable in the northwest Nebraska-western South Dakota areas which we serve.

OATS: As of this writing comparatively small acreage of oats has been planted; however, with favorable weather the crop could be put in in a few days. During the current week heavy seeding will take place. It used to be said that every day's delay in oat seeding after April 1st meant the reduction of one bushel per acre; however, it is doubtful that this holds true today due to present highly disease resistant varieties of oats. A trip across Iowa on April 6th found very few fields seeded; however, the fields are much drier than at this time last year when snow banks were still in evidence with side roads impassable and farm autos parked on the highways. Six years ago in this same territory oat seeding had been completed by March 26th.

IRRIGATION WATER: The outlook for irrigation water is splendid due to very heavy snow deposits in all of our mountain reserve regions.

POTATOES: We are in the midst of a potato famine. Old stocks are all but gone. Idaho's bins are barer than "Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard". Maine potatoes appeared on California markets last week and within a month California's early potatoes will undoubtedly be rushed to Maine to take care of the demand there after their old stocks are cleaned up. The above situation seems ironical when we remember that for several years Uncle Sam was destroying potatoes in an attempt to hold the market up. Intentions for planting compare favorable with last year in most of our territory.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER: The outlook for supplies of commercial fertilizer is somewhat better than last year, especially nitrogen and potash. A shortage of sulphur is making it difficult to produce sufficient phosphate. Commercial fertilizer has accomplished wonders in increasing our total production during recent years. It offers one of the best means for the farmer to meet the emergency which calls for tremendous all-out production of food with a minimum of help available.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Spring is the season of seed catalogs. In glancing through one recently it was noted there were 12 vegetables listed containing over 2,000 seeds per pound. Each of these seeds will, with the proper combination of sunshine, fertile soil, moisture and human "know-how" develop into a big head of cabbage, a monstrous sugar beet or a tomato plant capable of producing 100 big red juicy specimens. What remarkable things these little seeds are. Agriculture is in reality a process of planting seeds, cultivating plants and harvesting tremendous crops of food. These are responsible for making the United States the best fed nation in the world.

On March 19th, on a Nebraska Sandhills ranch, a newly dropped white-faced calf was seen enjoying the warm sun. Two days later this husky fellow went through a spring blizzard. Range cattle are just about as hardy as coyotes and undoubtedly this little fellow pulled through. In six months the rancher will have a 400 pound calf to sell - not a bad coupon to clip.- and as one man said, about all the rancher will have to do in the meantime is grease the windmill.

To a considerable extent our crops will be determined by the availability of water. It takes frequent showers throughout the entire season and not too many heavy "gully washers" to produce bumper crops. "Adams Ale" is fully as important to plants as to men and animals.

While this first issue of the Green and the Gold is a little late we expect to get following issues out as near to the first of the month as possible.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED)
FROM REPORTS AND PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS)
RECEIVED THROUGH APRIL 7TH)

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Ill.

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

MAY 9 1952

Volume 7

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

CROP REPORT

Number 2

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

May 1st, 1952

We are off to a good start!! For the first time in three years April has been a relatively warm month and farmers have been able to work in their fields. A large amount of oats were planted during the first week of the month and by April 20th three fourths of the crop was in in Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska. By the 25th many fields were up to a splendid start; in fact, more than have been seen in any season in the past six years.

As of this writing the season is from 10 days to two weeks ahead of both 1950 and 1951 and April closes with the farm picture in our territory very bright with the exception of the flooded river bottoms.

The most severe floods in history have occurred in the Missouri River bottoms with terrific loss to residents of the areas and to industries located in the valleys. The flood crest was from four to five feet higher than any previously experienced. This was due to a combination of factors:

- 1 - Very heavy snow cover in the northern part of the central states.
- 2 - A warm spell during the last week in March in the Milk River Valley of northeastern Montana which thawed the snow and sent the upper Missouri River on a tear.
- 3 - The first week of April saw 70° temperatures in the Dakotas and Minnesota and the very heavy snow covering there was quickly converted into surplus water which reached the main channel of the Missouri River at the same time that the surplus from the Milk River was going by.
- 4 - The thaw in Minnesota was equally sudden and produced very severe floods along the Mississippi River valley; however, these were not as bad as on some previous occasions.

The severity of the flood in the Missouri River was accentuated by the tremendous speed and volume of water which tended to cut across necks of land and straighten the river bed. In some instances such as the town of South Sioux City, Nebraska terrific damage was done to homes, industries and railroad property.

It is estimated that 10,000 acres of winter wheat in the Missouri River bottoms on the Nebraska side were ruined and that a similar acreage of alfalfa used largely for dehydrating purposes was severely injured. Fields in these valleys originally intended for oats and other small grains will, to a large extent, be planted to corn or soybeans providing they dry out within the next 30 days and occasional showers come to break the crust of very hard packed soil where streams three to six feet deep surged during the floods.

About the only good that comes to a valley from floods such as this one is the very heavy deposit of rich top soil from upstream. Unfortunately it takes at least a year to re-level fields and get them back into working condition. Furthermore, it takes several years for the farmers to get rid of the big crops of weeds which spring from the seeds that drifted in with the good soil.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop looks exceedingly promising in our territory other than in flooded valleys. A record yield is looked for in Nebraska and conditions in southern South Dakota are equally good. In Iowa and Illinois the winter wheat never looked better.

SPRING WHEAT: Seeding of this crop is at a peak with uplands and dry fields all in and as bottom lands dry off they will be planted very quickly.

PASTURES: Not as far advanced as might be expected. The cool weather in March retarded development. Some brome and grass mixture fields will be in use within a few days.

SPRING PLOWING: Plowing for corn is progressing very rapidly. One half of the fields in Iowa plowed as of April 25th with conditions about the same in Illinois. With big three bottom plows and tractors operating from daylight to dark a tremendous acreage is turned over during every day that conditions permit field work. A rather large acreage of grass is being turned under preparatory to planting fields to corn.

STOCKS OF CORN: Lower than in many years. As of April 1st stocks in all positions reported at 1,527,000,000 bushels compared to 1,880,000,000 bushels a year ago and 2,013,000,000 bushels in 1950. The poor 1951 crop was, to a large extent, fed to livestock and a considerable quantity of Government owned reserves have been disposed of. During the past few weeks Missouri River floods have damaged several million bushels of Government owned corn stored in bins located along river bottoms.

IRRIGATION WATERS: There is a splendid snow covering in the high mountains of the west. Areas which feed to reservoirs serving irrigation projects in our territory have heavier than normal covering of wet, heavily packed snow. We anticipate ample irrigation water throughout all the midwestern states.

SUGAR BEETS: The advance in the price of sugar in recent months has created a more favorable attitude on the part of farmers toward raising large acreage of beets. The sign-up in our territory is appreciably higher than last year. Most of the acreage is planted under very favorable soil and moisture conditions. Mechanization has taken most of the drudgery out of this crop.

POTATOES: The acreage planned for potatoes seems to be somewhat larger than first estimates. Acute shortage of old stocks and the lateness of the movement of potatoes from California has created a very unusual situation in the spring potato market. Many towns at this time report stores completely out of potatoes and those tubers which are in stock are of very low grade.

HOGS: During the late winter a good many bred gilts were sent to market. The number of spring litters will be materially lower than first estimated; also the number of sows bred for fall pigs will be cut down. The low hog market which has prevailed all winter has tended to discourage producers in their plans for this year's pig crop.

RANGE CATTLE: These have come through the winter in very good conditions other than in those areas where heavy covering of snow made it difficult to feed hay regularly. The calf crop is a large one and the outlook is for a very heavy marketing of range animals this fall.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

No two years are the same. Our May 1st report for 1951 commented on the relatively dry conditions prevailing throughout all of our territory. This year we find almost ideal soil conditions on uplands and too much water in the bottomlands. The winter has been a relatively wet one with muddy feed lots very much in evidence.

What about control of future Missouri River floods. We are optimistic. Critics should remember that the dams are just in process of construction. The only large one already completed is at Fort Peck. The Milk River empties into the Missouri River just below this dam. There was sufficient storage room in that reservoir to have held most of the Milk River overflow. With the big dams now under construction downstream from Fort Peck a tremendous amount of flood water can be impounded providing, of course, the reservoirs are emptied in late winter in anticipation of these terrific quantities of spring run-off waters.

We continue to marvel at the accomplishments of big machinery and modern farm power. Actually, there has been only a relatively few days suitable for field work during April, yet during those days farmers were able to get their work done with a remarkable speed and volume.

We note an increasing number of farm flocks of sheep. These range from 10 to 100 ewes. They are a very profitable sideline. The wool from the ewes takes care of the cost of their keep for the year and lambs, to a considerable extent, represent profit on the venture. With good pasture lambs capable of topping the mid-summer market can be produced in the Corn Belt on their mother's milk plus grass.

For the first time in many years all three classes of fattening animals - i.e. - fat cattle, hogs and sheep, have lost money. Almost always at least one of the three shows a nice profit on the fattening venture.

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THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED)
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND)
REPORTS RECEIVED THROUGH APRIL 28th)

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

400 West Madison Street

THE LIBRARY OF THE

Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

JUN 16 1952

Volume 7

Number 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

June 1st, 1952

May was an exceedingly favorable month for farm work and field activities proceeded very rapidly. Not in years have crops started under such splendid conditions.

The month was cool and one of less than normal rainfall with an almost complete absence of heavy, washing rains. Such rains make the rainfall chart look well but usually do as much harm as they do good. Heavy rains which cause torrents of water to race off the land, loaded with valuable top soil, do virtually no soaking into the ground.

Seed beds were in near perfect condition and the soil worked up mellow and free from weeds. The coolness retarded development of pastures and garden crops but was ideal for winter wheat, spring seeded grains and canning peas.

Rainfall for the months of April and May is below normal in the entire area which we serve but the rain which did fall soaked in and most of the territory entered April with a heavy snow melt. These factors have prevented serious drought complications to date. Southern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota are the two driest spots in our territory. Iowa and Nebraska, as well as the western half of South Dakota, have received splendid soakers during the past week.

All in all, the crop outlook in our territory as of this writing is exceedingly favorable. Even in the Missouri River bottoms in Western Iowa where floods in mid-April covered tremendous acreages with four to ten feet of water, the soil has dried and a trip through this area on May 20th by the writer showed the fields pretty well dried and farmers proceeding at full speed with corn planting. Practically all of the corn in the "bottoms" is planted with listers; hence, only necessary to disk ahead of the lister. Actually, there is a considerable portion of this vast valley which is better off today than it was a year ago when almost continuous rain during the entire spring had prevented farmers from doing any field work and weed growth was very heavy. In addition run-off water from the hills had further complicated things.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop is outstanding in our territory. All over Nebraska it gives promise of being the best on record. The same applies to the big producing area in south central South Dakota. Illinois also has good prospects and that part of the crop in western Iowa not damaged by floods is excellent. Wyoming has a record prospect largely produced on fallow ground.

CORN: Planting is practically completed. Much was put in during the last week in April and by May 10th one-third to one-half was planted in most sections. This is exceptionally early. Seed beds were good and while cool weather prevented the corn coming up rapidly we anticipate no trouble regarding stands. Weeds are well under control. A large amount of starter fertilizer has been used and a tremendous amount of nitrogen will be applied to the growing crop. The acreage is large and prospects for an exceptionally large crop are good.

SOY Bulk of the crop planted and early fields are up to a nice
BEANS: start. Should wet weather delay planting of the remainder there
is very little to worry about as most seasons June planted beans
have yielded very well.

SPRING Give promise of having short straw but stand is good and yield
GRAINS: could be well up to average. The plants are well stooled and
weeds are under control.

SUGAR Planted on schedule and stand is good. Thinning is under way
BEETS: at this time. The acreage tributary to Belle Fourche, S.D.
plant the same as last year but somewhat larger at several other
plants.

CANNING The cool May weather was ideal for early planted peas. An
CROPS: inspection of fields in the northern Illinois areas by the
writer on May 25th disclosed the plants had made a twelve inch
growth and were in bud. Blooms are expected in three days and canning
should be under way by mid-June, from fields planted April 17th. Last of
late plantings are being made at this time. Early sweet corn is up and
thriving. Splendid late May showers were received through this area.

POTATOES: In most of our commercial areas this crop was planted under
satisfactory conditions. Northern Wisconsin fields are up from
three to five inches.

PASTURES: Delayed by the cool weather. Brome grass was about the only
grass to make normal growth in early May.

RANGE Quite satisfactory. Splendid calf and lamb crops. Much late
CONDITIONS: hay feeding necessary account cool May weather. Help short.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The first new wheat arrived at Texas markets in mid-May. At
the same time Canadian Prairie Province farmers were finishing the combining
of their 1951 crop which had stood over winter in the fields account
excess fall rains.

The biggest single factor which will influence our 1952 crops
will be rainfall. Some areas, especially in North Dakota and parts of
northern Minnesota and Wisconsin need rain now. There are some
indications that this year may be one of less than normal rainfall. If we
get well timed showers throughout the growing season this could be a
remarkable crop year as field preparation and planting have been done
under near ideal conditions. In contrast last year much corn had two
strikes against it when it was planted - cold, wet, compacted weedy soils
and a long delayed planting.

The farm help situation may become serious at harvest. There is
quite a shortage in some areas.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND
REPORTS RECEIVED THROUGH MAY 26th

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street

Chicago 6, Ill.
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HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

JUL 14 1952

Volume 7

CROP REPORT

Number 4

THE GREEN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS July 1st, 1952

June was a hot month! In fact, the tea kettle really boiled over. The heat was an asset to farm work and cultivation of row crops proceeded on schedule. Fields are clean. Corn and soy beans have made phenomenal growth. Corn is two to three weeks ahead of last year.

Rainfall was below normal until near the end of the month. In the last few days good rains have pretty well covered the entire area. The first storms were erratic with a considerable amount of wind and uneven distribution of moisture. At the month's end most areas have received good soakings.

Temperatures from five to ten degrees above normal have prevailed; those in the nineties have been common and we have hit the one hundred degree mark in many places. This June heat may be the forerunner of a hot, dry summer; however, we are hoping this will prove to be the summer's hottest spell and the showers of the past ten days will be an indication of abundant summer moisture. Evaporation is terrific at high temperatures. It requires a lot of water to make a big corn crop and twenty inches of rain in the next ten weeks would be ideal for maximum production.

Clear weather during June made it possible for all types of farm work to be finished promptly. Not only were row crops cultivated and weeds kept under control but hay making went along on schedule and some wonderful quality hay was cured - just the opposite of conditions in 1951.

Frequent showers in extreme northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin and a few other local areas retarded farm work to some extent from mid-month on; however, these areas are quite limited.

CORN: A 3,500,000,000 bushel crop of corn is a definite possibility.

Seasonal rains during the next six weeks will do the trick. There is a large acreage; stands are good; fields are uniformly well advanced and, in the main, weeds are under definite control. If this three and one half billion bushel crop should materialize it will be one half billion above 1951 and the second largest in the history of the United States. In 1948 a crop of 3,681,793,000 bushels set the all-time record.

On June 15th a trip across Iowa by the writer found most corn ranging from 12 to 18 inches high, very good for that date. A year ago on the same date there was a little corn almost knee-high; quite a few fields from 6 to 8 inches high; a large amount just coming up; other fields being planted and still others were just being plowed. This was due to the wet, cold spring with very little sunshine.

The comparison of corn in Iowa for the two years is typical of that affecting all of our territory. Last year corn never had a chance - this year it has experienced near ideal conditions for the first half of its "career." Rainfall from this date on will determine the size of the crop. Corn has doubled in size in the last two weeks.

CORN: It will take more than the usual amount of rain at the right
(Cont'd) time to carry the crop through. It requires 33 gallons of water to produce a pound of dry weight in corn and in fields which produce from 60 to 100 bushels per acre a tremendous amount of water is needed between July 1st and mid-August - actually 20 inches of moisture if the maximum yield is to be obtained.

A large amount of fertilizer was used at planting time and additional nitrogen is now being used as side dressing. Both of these will stimulate maximum plant development. By and large we would say that prospects for corn in Iowa, eastern Nebraska, eastern South Dakota, southern Minnesota and Illinois are wonderful. The old adage of "knee high by the 4th of July" was knocked into a cocked hat in many places by June 20th. Sweet corn was seen in tassel at Lincoln, Nebraska on June 18th. (There have been years when some field corn was in tassel by June 30th at that point.)

SPRING These were hit rather hard by the heat and dry weather of June.
SEEDED Rains came too late to permit a better than average crop. Straw
GRAINS: is short; however, heads are about normal and we should have a pretty good crop of oats. This is especially true in our more eastern states. In the Dakotas all spring seeded grains were hurt rather severely. Wheat has suffered a serious set-back although with favorable weather following recent rains a pretty good crop could be produced. The two eastern tiers of counties in South Dakota will have an average crop but the central part of the state has been pretty hard hit. A trip across southern Minnesota on June 19th showed grain, including flax, to be in very good condition there. Rains came about as needed and the entire area looked exceedingly promising.

SOY BEANS: There is a large acreage. The stand is good and fields are clean. Growth is considerably ahead of last year. There is an increased acreage in Minnesota and a definite increase over last year in the bottomlands of western Iowa and eastern Nebraska which were under flood waters in April. There is also a large increase in the acreage of corn in these areas. It is estimated that upwards of 90% of the land which was under water in April at the time of the Missouri River floods was worked and planted to crops - quite largely corn and soy beans.

WINTER Harvesting of this crop has started in our territory in southern
WHEAT: Nebraska. Ripening was forced by hot weather and the crop will not be quite as good as anticipated; however, it will be far above average and 50% above 1951 in the eastern Nebraska territory. In northwestern Nebraska and south central South Dakota areas additional rain is needed to finish the grain. There will be a good yield but one more rain would help appreciably in filling out the grain.

In the High Plains states where the spring drought was quite severe winter wheat is producing a much better crop than spring seeded grains. The difference is due quite largely to the winter wheat having been grown on land which was fallowed the previous year; hence, two years' moisture was stored up to produce the crop. This practice has been found very desirable where rainfall averages less than 20 inches.

POTATOES: This crop growing rapidly and with abundant moisture should produce heavy yields. Acreage in most of our territory is just about on a par with last year. Early planted areas in Nebraska and southern Wisconsin will be harvesting during the coming month.

SUGAR BEETS: Beet fields have been thinned and stands are reported very satisfactory. In some of the dry western areas beets were irrigated up. An abundance of irrigation water is available in practically all districts. Total acreage has been limited by uncertainty of available labor. Machines have been used to a much greater degree than in any previous year.

CANNING CROPS: Canning factories have been working on early peas for two weeks. Yield is splendid and while the quality may not be quite as good as last year because of the heat, the tonnage is there. In Wisconsin the pea vines are so heavy that they are slowing the harvesting process. Sweet corn is developing rapidly and there is a heavy acreage.

RANGE CONDITIONS Range grass has been quite good in most of our western Nebraska and Wyoming territory. The extreme heat in early June hurried maturity; however, recent rains have kept it coming in pretty good shape. In western South Dakota grass made a splendid start but due to lack of rain in May and early June growth was stunted and a serious situation seemed to be ahead for stockmen; however, recent heavy rains will appreciably alleviate the situation.

PASTURES: Pastures in the Corn Belt have been exceptionally good during June and as a result milk production in Wisconsin and Minnesota areas has been very heavy. Much rotation grazing is being done.

ALFALFA: First cutting quite heavy. Second cutting reduced by continued dry weather in mid-June. High yields in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and southern Minnesota.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

On June 18th the Missouri River at Omaha was five feet below flood stage. Two months earlier, on April 18th, it was 31½ feet above the flood stage. The water in that Missouri River flood came from melting snow in the Dakotas and eastern Montana. Ironically, those same areas have had very little rain since the snow melted. Montana and North Dakota are still dry and South Dakota has received relief largely within the last week. Too bad the snow water couldn't have been kept in those states and put to use when needed.

We have experienced many erratic, spotty storms. One spot in Iowa on June 21st received 5.9 inches of rain in one hour. Wind storms have accompanied many of the rains. In the northwestern part of Wisconsin some areas have had three wind storms during the past ten days. Those which hit the Rice Lake area on June 23rd and 24th did a great deal of damage, including wrecking of some 30 large dairy barns. These immense structures are extremely vulnerable to wind damage because of their extreme height and overall dimensions. They were a "must" in early day agriculture for storing bulk hay; however, under modern methods of operation much of the grass is stored as silage and a large part of the balance as chopped or baled hay. Barns which will be constructed to replace those wrecked will undoubtedly be much closer to the ground.

AUG 13 1952
Chicago, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Volume 7

CROP REPORT

Number 5

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

August 1, 1952

July proved to be a "scorcher" with temperatures far above normal. Fortunately rainfall was heavy over most of our territory and, consequently, crops have made prodigious growth, especially corn and soy beans.

The month has been a battle of the "South vs. the North" and the former has won a decisive victory. Hot air masses from the south have fought their way to the Canadian border. Masses of cool Polar air have succeeded several times in pushing southward across the Corn Belt but they have been crowded back northward after a short visit. Fortunately, the humidity has been relatively high and this has minimized excess evaporation.

Rainfall has been pretty well spaced. Some heavy downpours have occurred with resultant damage; however, the good derived from the rains has more than offset the damage.

CORN: Corn has made wonderful progress. This semi-tropical plant requires heat, moisture and a fertile soil to make a big crop. Many 100 bushel yields are within sight in the heart of the Corn Belt. A few more showers in this area and the crop will be made. On the fringes of the primary producing area conditions are not so favorable. Extreme heat and lack of regular showers has hurt corn along the south and extreme west edge of the belt.

The crop is uniformly well advanced. A striking illustration of this was in evidence at the South Dakota Experiment Station, Brookings, where, on July 25th, in checking over the plots with John Shane, corn breeder, we found the crop almost as far along as it was on a similar inspection trip last year on August 22nd. Most plants are tasselled and quite a little fertilization is already completed.

Throughout the heavy corn producing areas of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska ears are set and fertilization is at a peak. It is doubtful if the crop ever looked better than at this writing. One operator at Jefferson, Iowa commented on July 28th that he had been farming in Green County for 40 years and had never seen such prospects.

In our July 1st report we stated that a three and one half billion bushel corn crop could be produced this year; however, because of lack of rain in some areas during the past two weeks we doubt if the crop can exceed three and one-quarter billion bushels.

Comparative lack of rainfall during the last ten days makes us dubious as to what may happen during the next few weeks. Corn has already been injured in some places and it is very difficult at this time to estimate the yield. There can either be a bumper crop or one cut back to quite a degree from the glowing prospects of a short time back.

This year should find very little soft corn as most early fields give promise of being dented and out of the way of frost by September 1st.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop is fully as good as anticipated; furthermore, favorable weather made it possible for harvesting to be completed in a week's time. The absence of dew in Kansas and southern Nebraska made it possible for operators to run combines "around the clock", an unheard of procedure in the old horse and buggy days. Over one half of the 300,000,000 bushel crop in Kansas was harvested in one week, a direct contrast to last year when harvest extended from June 1st to September 1st, and some fields never gathered. Somewhat similar conditions prevailed in parts of southern Nebraska.

SPRING WHEAT: This is one of the disappointments of the year. A tremendous amount of damage was done by the spring drought. There has been considerable improvement since the late June rains; however, these came too late to correct the situation. First reports of harvest indicate crop in South Dakota will average about 30% of the 1951 crop, which, incidentally, was unusually large. Many of the first threshed fields in the central part of the state yielded 8 to 11 bushels per acre. Straw is short and there is some dirt with the grain.

OATS: Very spotted. The intense June heat hurt the yield, especially in early planted fields. There is a wide range of yields. Most areas in Iowa and Nebraska are reporting from 20 to 40 bushels. Further north the crop is much better. There are areas in Minnesota where the average will be 50 bushels. At Brookings, S.D. the average is 40 bushels and the weight is running from 36 to 38 pounds. One 66 bushel yield has been reported there. At Marshall, Minnesota a 110 acre field has yielded 75 bushels per acre and the grain tested 37 pounds. At Huron, S.D. the average will be about 20 bushels and the test weight 32 pounds. Last year at this point yields ranged from 60 to 75 bushels and test weights from 36 to 38 pounds.

BARLEY: This crop is also very spotted; however, some fields are yielding well. The quality is quite good. Spring drought and extreme June heat hurt the crop.

RYE: Quality good, but yields not up to last year. Central South Dakota is averaging 10 bushels with eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota from 20 to 25 bushels.

FLAX: This looks to be the best of the spring seeded crops. Rains came in time to help most fields. The rust is bad on some susceptible varieties.

HAY: Production in most of our territory has been heavy. A considerable part of the first cutting was stored as grass silage and much of the remainder was badly damaged by the weather. The second cutting of alfalfa has been cured under ideal conditions and is of top quality. In our western territory native hay crop is somewhat lighter than usual and with the very heavy cattle population it is anticipated the demand for hay will be very large, especially throughout the range areas. Some cattle have been moved out of drought areas in the southwest and a considerable quantity of hay has been fed during the summer. This will make a further inroad on supplies of roughage in the range country.

CANNING CROPS: Heat cut the yield of late peas in half and also proved to be an adverse factor in the quality of the crop as it was impossible to harvest them as fast as they were ready. While the quality and yield of early peas was satisfactory, the total crop will be much less than last year.

Sweet corn is developing very rapidly. The weather has been nearly perfect for this and canning operations are getting under way. Acreage is large and tonnage could break all records.

POTATOES: Wisconsin has an outstanding crop. Some 600 bushel per acre yields are expected in the Antigo-Eagle River-Rhineland area with 400 bushels per acre common. Rains have come at just the right time. In the Saron-Rice Lake area prospects are very favorable; also at Watertown, South Dakota. Further west hail did some damage.

SUGAR BEETS: This crop is coming along very rapidly. Roots should have full development shortly after September 1st. Fields are clean. Stands good in the Riverton, Wyoming, Belle Fourche, S.D. and Mirage Flats districts. In the Whitney-Gordon area in northwestern Nebraska prospects are equally favorable.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The high humidity prevailing during most of July was wonderful for crops but proved quite uncomfortable for humans. Last year the Corn Belt was so cool the entire region resembled a big summer resort; this year has been just the opposite and a blanket of hot air has covered most of the United States during the greater part of July. Even in the summer resort areas temperatures have been above normal.

The thermometer has crept above the 100 mark on a number of days recently. At Pierre, S.D. on July 24th it got up to 112 degrees and an inspection trip that afternoon between Huron and Pierre found corn to be curled due to the intense heat.

At one point in southeastern South Dakota the rainfall picture for the past five weeks is very interesting. The rains came on Sundays. On Sunday, June 22nd, 4 inches were received; on Sunday, July 7th, 3 inches fell; on Sunday, July 14th one-half inch fell and for the next two Sundays, no rain. Had this rainfall been better distributed there would have been ample to have finished the crop.

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THIS MATERIAL PREPARED FROM)
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND)
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND)
INCLUDING JULY 29th)

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILROAD WAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, GENERAL AGRICULTURAL AGENT

Volume 7 CROP REPORT
Number 6 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD September 1, 1952

The mid-west continues to be the bright spot of the nation. Timely showers have kept the corn and soy beans booming and both of these crops will be heavy in the primary producing sections. Marginal tracts, especially to the west and south have failed to receive rain and corn has been hurt in these sections.

Wisconsin is perhaps the most outstanding of our states to have consistently received moisture throughout the entire growing season. What a crop of corn, vegetables, grass, hay and other products the Badger state is producing! Nearly all of Minnesota has fared equally well and the great state of Iowa is coming up with the best crops of corn and soy beans it has ever produced.

A good general rain over our entire territory would be beneficial at this time in putting the finishing touches to corn and soy beans and to enable farmers to complete their fall plowing. However, even without additional rain the corn is practically "made."

As of this writing we have confidence in our previous prediction that the total U.S. crop will reach three and one-quarter billion bushels and we anticipate that the September 1st federal report will show an increase in Iowa to sixty three bushels per acre and an increase in our other states with the exception of South Dakota. A shortage of rain during August in parts of eastern South Dakota has cut yields there; however, the state will have a good crop and in many sections the yield will be far above average, especially those heavy producing corn areas in the southeast corner.

CORN: Most corn is past the "roasting ear" stage. It is conservatively two weeks ahead of last year and still ahead of normal. Cool nights recently have slowed the development. As an example it was only 43 degrees at Iowa City, Iowa on the morning of August 24th. At Brookings, S.D. on August 20th corn in the various test plots at the University was starting to dent. A year ago on August 22nd we inspected these plots and found corn in stages of development ranging from just starting to tassel to a few roasting ears.

With normal conditions prevailing during the next few weeks we would expect all corn to mature, and there should be a considerable amount of husking under way by October 1st. The crop is definitely ahead of that of 1948 at this time and that year all fully matured.

SPRING This has not been a good year for spring seeded grains. Oats, barley, SEEDED and spring wheat all "took a beating" from the dry, hot June. Rains GRAINS: in early July failed to bring recovery in our territory although further north in North Dakota and Canada the drought was broken early enough for these grains to "come back" to a much greater extent.

SOY This crop is wonderful. Podding is heavy and the crop is rapidly BEANS: approaching maturity. Leaves are already turning yellow and dropping from early varieties. By mid-September combines will be in the fields.

SUGAR BEETS: Beets in irrigated sections are well advanced. Quite a number of three pound roots were found in both western Nebraska and western South Dakota last week. On the Mirage Flats reclamation project there are many fields which look good for fifteen and possibly twenty tons per acre. At Whitney and Belle Fourche conditions are almost as favorable. Beet areas in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota and Wisconsin have received sufficient amounts of rain and yields will be large.

POTATOES: The market is "red hot" for this crop and digging is proceeding rapidly. In Wisconsin yields will probably exceed any previous average. Rains have come at the right time for the large acreage in this state. Dry weather cut the yield to some extent in northeastern South Dakota. The northern Iowa section looks good.

CANNING CROPS: Sweet corn harvest is at a peak. The yield is tremendous and the quality splendid. Some six ton per acre fields have been reported. The weather has been perfect for harvesting and picking machines are running on a 24 hour basis. Other canning crops are equally good and cucumbers in the Wisconsin-Minnesota producing sections are terrific.

HAY: Third cutting alfalfa was harvested under satisfactory weather conditions. Yield is light in some places. While hay crops in our territory will be heavy the demand from other sections gives promise of reducing the surplus.

HARVEST CONDITIONS: The relatively large amount of clear weather in late July and early August made it possible for harvesting to be completed in record time. There is a limited amount of shocked grain to be threshed and the flax harvest is well under way. Quality of most grain has been good although yields have been disappointing, with the exception of winter wheat and flax.

CATTLE: Ranges have continued in good condition and very little stock has been moving to date. Such stock cattle as have been sold have moved at a figure approximately \$10.00 cwt. below those prevailing at the peak last fall. Some feeder lambs moving at around \$23.00 cwt. western loading points and this is \$10.00 under the price at opening last year. Farmers who "burnt their fingers" buying high priced feeder cattle and lambs are not rushing to outbid each other this year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Cool nights recently are a reminder that early frost can happen. Two years ago on August 19th a large amount of corn was nipped in parts of Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota. Last year a September frost caught most corn before it had matured. A load of corn brought into Brookings, S.D. last week tested 31 pounds. This had stood in the field all winter and was thoroughly dry and free from mold but the kernels were very light. The price it brought - 60¢ per bushel - gave evidence of its value as feed. A yield of 18 bushels per acre at this price did not leave much for the operator.

Test plots of corn inspected at DeKalb, Illinois August 24th revealed early varieties fully matured. A year ago at this time these same hybrids were quite a way from maturity although they finally did finish out well.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

The science of using supplemental water is in its infancy. Evidences of the need for developing this are to be seen in all sections of the United States where there has been a shortage of moisture during the growing season. Looking ahead, the need for stabilizing our food supply through greater production per acre is obvious. We are taking one million acres per year out of agricultural production and our population is increasing at the rate of two million per year. These two facts just about tell the story.

We look for a much greater use to be made of supplemental water during the hot period of the summer. Some of this water will come from pumping wells. Other from lifting from streams, ponds and lakes. In some instances water will be lifted from present levels in irrigated valleys to plateaus ten to one hundred feet higher. All of these things are possible and looking ahead even a few years it is easy to visualize their becoming realities.

The other day on the Belle Fourche, S.D. reclamation project a field of oats, waist high, was seen. These oats had been amply irrigated and looked good for 75 bushels per acre. Within a mile a field of dry land barley stood eight inches high, weedy and so poor that it was not worth cutting. In northern Nebraska on the Mirage Flats project any number of irrigated sugar beet fields will make fifteen tons per acre while dry land of equal possibilities nearby has suffered from summer drought to the extent that all crops are very poor.

Alfalfa on the irrigated land is being cut for the third time and will yield about five ton per acre. Yields of from sixty to seventy bushels of oats and barley are quite common.

Irrigation has become a must in sections where rainfall is fifteen inches or less per year. We predict that the line will move eastward and that in areas where less than twenty inches are received regularly it will become an established practice where water can be made available at not too great a cost.

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FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS
AND REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO
AND INCLUDING AUGUST 25th.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois
JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS
HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT.

Volume 7 CROP REPORT
Number 7 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD October 1, 1952

September was a warm, dry month, fine for maturing corn, soy beans and potatoes. There was just about the right amount of wind and all in all it proved to be just the opposite of last year when cool, wet weather prevented corn from maturing. However, at this time farmers want a frost! This seems ironical but it is true. Corn is mature but until a frost occurs farmers hesitate to pick and store the crop. A year ago they were hoping there would be no frost until Xmas because much of their corn was far from mature at this date.

On the negative side the month ends with the top soil pretty dry in all of our territory. The drought is especially acute in western Nebraska and western South Dakota where very little rain has been received in the past two months.

CORN: A terrific crop of corn of near-perfect quality has reached maturity and harvesting is getting under way. There is no longer any question about the yield. The first fields picked indicate a mammoth crop, especially in northern Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, eastern Nebraska and southeastern South Dakota. One northern Illinois seed company reports a 130 bushel(field weight) per acre yield on a harvested field. On a basis of 15% moisture content this amounts to 113 bushels per acre.

The crop is sufficiently dry to permit picking and shelling providing shelled corn is delivered to elevators equipped with dryers. This should result in a considerable movement of new corn within a few weeks. In Iowa some harvested seed fields are reported at 24% moisture with others up to 32%. Where combination pickers and shellers are available a large amount of corn will be handled in the field and go direct to market. These relatively new machines are actually corn combines and would seem to have quite a future with the advent of artificial drying plants at most elevators and on many farms.

On September 1st we estimated the national corn crop at three and one quarter billion bushels. We adhere to this prediction and believe the crop in Iowa, which was officially estimated at an average of 62 bushels per acre on that date, will prove to be 63 bushels, or a total of 680,337,000 bushels for the state. Should this happen it will be slightly above the all-time record crop of 677,056,000 bushels produced in Iowa in 1948.

Irrigated corn in western Nebraska and western South Dakota is mature and there is a very heavy crop. The hot summer, combined with abundant water and applications of fertilizer did the trick. At Ainsworth, Nebraska, 200 miles west of Sioux City, Iowa, summer drought hurt dry land corn, although some 20 bushels per acre yields have been reported. Irrigated corn at that point is estimated to be yielding 80 bushels per acre. The crop across southern Minnesota is one of the best in the history of that state and Wisconsin has by far the largest crop of fully matured corn on record there.

SOY BEANS: This crop has fully matured and a considerable part of it has already been harvested. Yields are very satisfactory and the quality is splendid. The unique feature of this year's crop is the manner in which the area producing beans has extended north and west. For instance, in Minnesota a crop of 21,442,000 bushels this year will equal any crop produced in the entire nation prior to 1935. There are some good beans in north central Wisconsin. South Dakota has a good many in the southeast quarter and the crop has spread westward quite a way into Nebraska. Twenty years ago we doubted if the soy bean would ever be of importance in northern Iowa let alone in the state of Minnesota.

SMALL GRAINS: Harvesting of all small grains and flax has been completed. The yield of the former was disappointing but the quality very good. Flax produced a satisfactory crop, also of good quality.

WINTER WHEAT: Seed beds in eastern Nebraska, western Iowa and Illinois are in good tilth and there is sufficient moisture in the soil to start the crop. Planting is just about completed and the acreage is large. In western Nebraska and South Dakota the top soil is rather too dry to permit prompt germination. Some seeding has been delayed. Most seed in those areas is put on summer fallow and there is a considerable reserve of moisture in the subsoil. A good "soaker" would be very welcome for all winter wheat in our territory at this time.

FALL PLOWING: Fall plowing in Iowa and Minnesota has been retarded by dry soil. Recent showers, however, have permitted this operation to be speeded up.

HAY: Late cuttings of hay have been rather light; however, an extremely heavy first cutting has produced surpluses which have been of great value to people in the drought areas of the south. In August we moved a large number of carloads of hay out of Wisconsin for feeding to livestock in the drought areas of the south.

SUGAR BEETS: Harvesting has just started and first yield reports indicate a larger crop than in 1951. The crop in eastern Wisconsin on non-irrigated land is yielding 11 ton per acre of very high sugar content beets, some testing up to 18% sugar.

PASTURES: There is a shortage of pasture in some areas owing to a dry late season; however, livestock is in very good condition. A large amount of silage has been made and in the dairy sections silage and good quality hay already constitute the major part of the cows' roughage rations.

RANGE TERRITORY: The season for heavy movement of range stock has arrived. A peculiar situation has developed. Markets for all classes of range animals have dropped drastically and there has been a tendency to hold range livestock a little longer. Farmers in the Corn Belt with big crops of top quality corn have been hesitant to buy cattle. Last year they jumped in early as they knew they could not find a market for their immature corn other than as livestock feed. Feeding operations, on the whole, proved to be financially unsatisfactory and this has been a factor in causing them to adopt a waiting attitude this year. Stockers and feeders as well as thin lambs are selling more than \$10.00 cwt. below this time last year. This year's corn can be sealed at about \$1.60 per bushel on the farm and this is a brake on the buying of cattle and sheep.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Effective September 15th the Agricultural Department of the North Western Railway System was changed to Agricultural and Forestry Department and the title of Howard J. Gramlich to Director-Agricultural and Forestry Development.

Last month we told of the wisdom of conserving feed, especially corn silage. Corn is now fully matured and an inspection trip by the writer on September 28th in early fields around DeKalb, Illinois found many leaves already blown off and waiting to be spattered with mud when the rains come.

What this country needs is a good three day "soaker". Very few places in the United States have had their usual quota of fall rain and the top soil in our territory is very dry. Fall moisture is the number one assurance of good crops the following year. Fall rains which soak into the subsoil do far more good than a heavy fall of winter snow which frequently falls on frozen ground, melts in a hurry and causes floods such as those in the Missouri River Valley last year.

This has been a year of fast harvesting. Dry, hot weather during harvesting season of most crops enabled the operation to be completed in very short time. This was true at the outset with the winter wheat harvest; later spring grains, then flax and now we are experiencing near ideal weather for combining soy beans - the earliest on record. Should it stay dry until the corn crop is fully matured it is entirely possible that this, too, will prove to be a quick operation as farmers have picking machines and big tractors equipped with head lights which will enable them to complete the job in record time.

In the mad rush to pick corn many farmers each year take unnecessary chances and come out of field accidents in bad shape. October is the month in which the National Safety Council holds its annual meeting and ironically also the month in which many farm accidents occur. Let's be careful!

THIS IS THE LAST REGULAR REPORT OF THE SEASON:

We trust it has proved of value to you and that you have enjoyed this and previous ones as much as we have enjoyed bringing them to you. We will plan on sending you some Christmas philosophy in a special December issue and our first report of the 1953 growing season will be released on April 1st.

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Chicago and North Western System



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Volume 7
Number 8
THE GREEN AND THE GOLD
CHRISTMAS -
1952

Another year has rolled around and it is again our pleasure to extend best wishes for the holiday season. Snowstorms in recent weeks have reminded us of the approach of Christmas and of the joy and goodwill we should have in our hearts toward our friends and fellow men.

The Christmas tree is as much a part of Christmas as Christmas itself. The tree is symbolic of the spirit of the home, the family, the happiness, the joy and all the things which are in our hearts at this season. Christmas trees don't just happen. They are a crop which comes out of our bounteous earth. Five years ago our Forestry Agent, Bill Kluender, planted "tree farm" on a tract of sandy land adjoining our freight yards at Spooner, Wisconsin. Those tiny Norway pine seedlings are now full fledged Christmas trees standing six feet tall with beautiful spreading limbs. As I write this I am looking at one of those trees which has been put up in my office, beautifully decorated and expressing to all who see it the true spirit of Christmas. Trees from this same farm recently were used in a television show.

The crop season of 1952 was an unusual one. Throughout the heart of the Corn Belt, in the territory served by our railroad, we were blessed with wonderful crops. The rains came just about as needed even though the total rainfall during the growing season was four inches below normal. Our area harvested the largest corn crop on record and the nation as a whole produced its second largest crop.

All grain crops matured rapidly and with relatively dry weather during harvest season the crops were gathered with heretofore unheard of rapidity. The winter wheat crop was the first to "hit the pan." In Kansas, here a 300,000,000 bushel crop matured, over half was harvested in the short span of one week. Freedom from dews and moisture enabled combines to run "around the clock" and bright headlights on the tractors working through the night presented an unusual picture to midnight travelers on the highways of that state.

Moving northward, as spring seeded crops matured, harvesting was completed in record time. With continued dry weather in late September the soy bean crop was garnered rapidly and the monstrous corn crop, fully matured and dry, was cribbed at an unprecedented speed. The loads of bright yellow ears constituted a "gold rush" of far more importance and value than the one which the hardy pioneers put on in their mad scramble to get to California one hundred years ago.

When the midwest was settled a century ago most people lived on farms. Well over two-thirds of the population was rural. During the interim in which one hundred Merry Christmases have been celebrated, there has been a constant change under way. Each year a larger percentage of the total have put up their Christmas trees in town homes and have had to patronize the corner market for the "fixin's" to grace their festive tables.

Today, only 15% of the population of our country is on farms. The other 85% live in towns and depend on the 15% for their food and for many of the raw products which are used in the factories where they work. We have reached the stage in which it is very important that city dwellers have a broad picture concerning the importance of agriculture. In fact, we might say that agriculture needs a Public Relations Department.

Our population is increasing at the rate of two and one half millions per year. Between the time you tear sheets from your calendar one quarter of a million new babies arrive. We had a total population of only seventy five million at the turn of the century. Now it exceeds one hundred and fifty seven million and it is calculated to reach one hundred and ninety million by 1975.

Agriculturally speaking, we are confronted with a rapidly increasing population which we must feed and at the same time one which is moving out into our fields and reducing our tillable land at the rate of one million acres per year.

Do you realize what can be grown on one million acres? Sugar beets and sugar cane were grown on one million acres of our land this year. The refined sugar produced from this will amount to 25 pounds for every man, woman and child in our nation. This is one fourth of the annual consumption per capita, or a three months supply.

In 1950 there were 1,400,000 new homes built in the United States. On the basis of five per acre this would mean over one quarter of a million acres taken out of production that year. Announcement was recently made of a 160 acre tract being developed southwest of Chicago where 320 homes would be erected. Almost without exception the ground around those homes will be in grass, flowers and shrubs. The food production of the entire area wouldn't even "fill a pig's eye" let alone his stomach.

A recent visit to the Santa Clara Valley, south of San Francisco, where prune production has always been a major industry, found ranch houses built in many orchards. There are ninety housing projects under way in that little valley at this time, largely in the 30 mile stretch between San Jose and the outskirts of San Francisco.

We are also experiencing a continuous industrial expansion. Furthermore, industrial plants are no longer built into the air. They are "flatties" and spread out over many acres. In addition they have parking facilities for employees cars and sites set aside for further expansion.

You may wonder how it happens so small a percentage of our total population live on farms. This can best be ascribed to technological developments. Big machinery and power have been responsible for larger farms. In many instances several farms are consolidated into one unit. Farming today is pretty much on an assembly line basis. It is amazing what one man can do with the help of big modern machinery.

It has been said that grandfather had a farm, father had a garden, and son has a can opener. This is more of a truism than we think and it just about tells the story of what has taken place in our mode of living.

Now, what is the outlook for the future? In America we are blessed with very fertile soil. Up to now we have only half farmed. We are just beginning to learn how to use fertilizer. New chemicals and insecticides, new hybrid plants and animals, new varieties of disease resistant crops, soil and water conservation, all will continue to play a big part in the future production picture.

We have enjoyed contacting you through The Green and the Gold during this past season. Food production is one of the great gifts of God. It is a pleasure to be able to tell you of the unfolding and development of the growing crops each season.

May the holiday season and the year 1953 hold much in store for you and yours.

Sincerely,

Howard J. Gramlich

DIRECTOR - AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8 CROP REPORT
Number 1 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD April 11, 1953

With this issue we bring you the first progress report of the crop outlook in our territory for the year 1953. Of necessity this report will, quite largely, deal with moisture and soil conditions during the past winter. As indicative of the tremendous variations of conditions within our territory, on March 12th a number of farmers were seen cutting corn stalks preparatory to planting oats in the Platte Valley of Central Nebraska while just a few days before that a trip in the famous dairy section of north central Wisconsin found two foot of snow on the level and many herds of cows still in the barns where they had spent the entire winter. At about the same time fishermen were noted drawing nets through the ice of Lake Michigan at Escanaba. A little later many acre of potatoes will be planted in the fields of beautiful Upper Michigan.

Most of our territory went into the winter with very dry soil due to prolonged shortage of late summer and fall rains. Since the first of the year there have been a number of very good rains and several snows of the heavy, wet type - result - conditions are materially improved although more moisture is needed to build up sub-soil reserves. We are not in as good shape in this respect as we were a year ago.

The winter was comparatively mild and in many sections only light frost remains in the ground. Throughout our territory two-thirds of the year's moisture is received in the five months April through August and it is the volume and timely distribution of this which, to a large extent, determines the crops we produce.

CORN: The stored 1952 crop has come through the winter in good shape other than that due to the relatively warm, moist condition of the air, the corn has picked up considerable moisture. However, this should dry out with a few windy days. Due to the severe break in the corn market the amount of the grain disposed of by farmers has been much less than expected. Much of the corn in good cribs has been sealed to the Government; however, there is a large amount in open top round cribs and various other temporary structures not eligible for Government loan. This would have been marketed during the winter except for the break in prices. The loan figure now stands at about \$1.52 per bushel, while the market price is 12¢ to 15¢ under this.

WINTER WHEAT: This is "greening" nicely and with favorable weather our area could produce an average crop. Much of the late plantings made a very slow start last fall and very seldom will wheat of this kind produce big yields.

OATS: An unusually small acreage of oats has been planted to date. Chances are that the big money crops, corn and soy beans, will get the heavy acreage this year and in areas where flax, barley and spring wheat thrive, we anticipate large plantings of these.

IRRIGATION WATER: Snowfall in the mountains was very light during the fore part of the winter; however, since February 1st there has been an appreciable increase and from present indications reserves of water for irrigation projects will be ample to take care of anticipated needs.

POTATOES: In direct contrast to the potato famine existing a year ago at this time, there are a few too many old potatoes and shippers are having difficulty finding sufficient buyers to clean up the stocks. Apparently this spud "supply and demand" situation hinges on a very delicate balance and a few too many carloads in reserve seems to upset the market. In spite of the current unsatisfactory situation growers did well on the bulk of their crop which was marketed earlier in the year and we expect at least as big an acreage to be planted as last year. In our major producing sections the potato business today is in the hands of a relatively few large operators.. These men are experts in their field and carry on the business on an assembly line basis. An inspection last week of the fields of Kern County, California, disclosed that a nice crop is maturing there and loadings will start around April 20th from the 53,000 acres planted in that highly productive area.

FERTILIZER: Last year practically every ton of fertilizer used returned three times what it cost and in addition there was a considerable carry-over value left in the soil. This experience has made farmers doubly anxious to use large amounts of fertilizer this year and commitments have been made well in advance. It is estimated there will be 5,800,000 tons available which is about 10% above the amount used last year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

It is a pleasure to live in the center of the great Mississippi Valley. Few people realize what a wonderful area it is. For example Australia and the United States are about the same size and located in the same general latitude, yet Australia has only eight million people while we have a population of approximately 159,000,000. The reason for this difference is almost entirely due to Australia having a vast interior desert which is scarcely capable of maintaining a small amount of wild life whereas we have the most fertile valley in the world embodying the central part of our country. Two thirds of the farm income of the nation is produced in the Mississippi Valley. The 12 north central states are credited with producing 43.5% of this income and the territory covered by this report lies in the heart of the Mississippi Valley. Our 6 major producing states are among the 12 mentioned above which constitute the heart of the Corn Belt.

During recent months there has been a terrific drop in the price of beef cattle. At the same time there has been an increase in the price of fat hogs. For instance, during the month of February this year fat steers on the Sioux City, Iowa market averaged \$21.55 while fat hogs averaged \$19.39, a difference of only \$2.17. A year ago during February on the same market fat cattle averaged \$32.16 while fat hogs averaged \$16.55, a difference of \$15.61. During the time beef was so high many housewives acquired the habit of purchasing substitutes and it has taken some little time and a tremendous amount of advertising to win their goodwill back. Many steer feeders lost virtually all of the corn they put into their cattle during the winter.

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HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8

Number 2

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

May 1, 1953

April has been a freakish month. Conditions were ideal for field work during the fore part. In most areas a large percentage of the oats and spring wheat were seeded; however, from the 10th to the 20th agriculture was in a "static" condition. Cold, wet weather tied up all field work and extremely low temperatures on the 17th actually froze the top two inches of soil in many places. Readings as low as 12 above zero were recorded with 15 to 18 above quite commonplace.

Generally speaking, we are in very good shape. The good done by the rainfall received during the month will much more than offset the damage done by the extreme cold. The rains were of the steady, soil soaking type and the snow which fell during the several cold spells was heavy and remained on the ground; consequently there has been virtually no run-off such as occurred a year ago immediately preceding the big Missouri River flood which reached its peak at Omaha on April 18th, 1952. Incidentally, the river at that point a year ago registered 19½ feet above flood stage while this spring it has been approximately 5 feet below normal during April.

The extreme cold damaged some oats, especially those which were broadcast. Drilled fields with the grain covered deeply, stood the freeze better.

There was an unusual amount of wind. On several days a recorded velocity of 40 to 60 miles per hour was reported. Some dust was reported blowing during the early part of the month. Temperatures for the month averaged several degrees below normal. At mid-month they were registered 10 to 15 degrees below normal.

Generous rains have fallen during the last few days. These further helped soak the subsoil in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa; however, it will take quite an amount of moisture to offset the dry fall of 1952. Most people have forgotten that the bumper 1952 corn crop was produced on a rainfall that was 4 inches below normal. The subsoil reserve moisture and timely showers made that crop possible.

Plowing has progressed rapidly during the past week and is pretty well completed. All attention is now turned toward preparation of the corn fields for planting of the nation's number one crop. In our territory, which is the major producing area, this will be under way within a few days.

There will be a large acreage of corn. Some oat acreage, which was not planted because of mid-April delay, will be switched to corn and an occasional damaged field of oats may also be prepared and planted to corn.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street, Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Number 2
Volume 8
THE GREEN AND THE GOLD
CROP REPORT
May 1, 1953

April has been a fresh month. Conditions were ideal for field work during the fore part. In most areas a large percentage of the oats and spring wheat were seeded; however, from the 10th to the 20th agriculture was in a "static" condition. Cold, wet weather tied up all field work and extremely low temperatures on the 17th actually froze the top two inches of soil in many places. Readings as low as 18 above zero were recorded with 15 to 18 above due to commonplace.

Generally speaking, we are in very good shape. The good done by the rainfall received during the month will much more than offset the damage done by the extreme cold. The rains were of the steady, soft soaking type and the snow which fell during the several cold spells was heavy and melted on the ground; consequently there has been virtually no run-off. Immediately preceding the big Missouri River flood, incidentally, about 19th, 1953.

WINTER Cool weather in April proved to be a blessing to winter wheat.
WHEAT: This enabled plants which had gotten off to a slow start last fall to stool and indications at this writing are that the crop will be better than we anticipated a month ago.

SPRING Seeding of this crop got under way the first of April in the
WHEAT: principal producing regions of South Dakota and Minnesota, and well over half of the acreage was planted in many sections during that week. The soil was in fine shape and rains which fell the week following in these areas produced ideal conditions for starting the grain.

PASTURES: These have been very backward, due to the cool weather which retarded development. Only within the past few days has grass boomed forward and at this writing fields of Brome and various mixtures give promise of considerable growth.

SUGAR Planting of beets was delayed by adverse weather conditions.
BEETS: Signup for acreage in some areas is heavy and we anticipate a large acreage in the territory served by our railroad.

POTATOES: Planting in our Wisconsin, South Dakota and Wyoming areas has started under favorable circumstances. Stocks of old potatoes are pretty well cleaned up. The unseasonably cold spring has delayed and injured the crop in several early producing sections of the country, thus permitting remaining stocks of old potatoes to do better than would have been the case. The big movement of Kern County, California long whites has been delayed approximately a month by frosts and cool weather.

IRRIGATION Snow pack in the mountains serving our irrigated valleys is
WATER: not quite up to last year; however, it approximates the 10 year average. At Togwatee Pass, at the headwaters of the Wind River in Wyoming there are 71 inches of packed snow containing 27.3 inches of water. The water content last year at this point was 32.2 inches and the 10 year average 28.8 inches. In the Upper Spearfish Canyon in the northern Black Hills of South Dakota there is a snow pack of 26.5 inches containing 8.6 inches of water while a year ago the water content was 10.2 inches and the 10 year average 7.0 inches.

The most serious situation in our territory is the shortage of water in the Ormond Reservoir at Belle Fourche, S.D. This is only a little more than half of what it was a year ago and it will require rather generous spring moisture to bring this up to a point where it will provide ample water for the large acreages of sugar beets, potatoes and alfalfa which are being planted in the valley.

RANGE While grass is slow in starting ample supplies of hay and
CONDITIONS: cured range throughout the range territory will carry the cattle and sheep until the new growth is ready. There is a large crop of calves and splendid results in cattle.

LIVESTOCK:

The booming hog market of recent months is quite a contrast to the troubled one existing in fat cattle alleys. At this writing hogs are averaging almost \$3.00 above the average price of fat steers. A year ago fat cattle were selling at practically double the price of hogs and it began to look as though hogs were doomed to go the way of the draft horse and the Dodo bird. At that time there were too many hogs and not enough fat cattle. Today, conditions have reversed. Many feeders are marketing steers which they have fed for six months and are losing all of the corn which was fed to them. Increase in hog numbers can take place rather quickly. For instance, on the 19th of February in a corn stalk field in northern Illinois a boar and 10 fat gilts were seen. These gilts obviously had been taken out of the fattening pen and were being bred for late litters largely because the hog outlook had taken a turn for the better. By mid-June those 10 gilts could have 80 to 90 little piglets running with them on pasture and by the end of the year the piglets could represent 10 ton of pork. No such rapid increase in cattle or sheep tonnage can be expected.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Some city residents think modern farming is "a bed of roses." This, however, is not entirely the case. On a recent afternoon thousands of tractors were seen plowing, disking and harrowing the fertile fields of northern Illinois. As they bounced along over the ridges the wind blew little clouds of dust over the operators. Most of these machines had been in the field since early morning and many were still chugging away as darkness approached.

Escanaba, Michigan is famous for its spring smelt run. In recent weeks smelt at that point have been gathered in such tremendous quantities that the market has gone down to a point where many of the small fish are being used as garden fertilizer. This certainly is a return to the days when the Indians first taught our forefathers how to grow corn by placing a fish beside each hill. Quite a contrast to the present when farmers in northern Illinois and Iowa are putting \$20.00 worth of commercial fertilizer per acre on their corn fields from which they expect to harvest a hundred bushel crop instead of the few little scrawny ears which were gathered by the Pilgrims. Even so, those hardy pioneers were so appreciative that they established Thanksgiving day.

A very large acreage in Wisconsin has been covered with barnyard manure. A dairy herd on nearly every farm and with manure scattered daily throughout the year other than in periods of extreme bad weather makes it possible for the Badger farmer to cover most of his fields every other year. As a result he is doing a splendid job at keeping fertilization at a peak.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD CROP REPORT
Number 3 ----- JUN 10 1953 June 1st, 1953

The outstanding feature of May's weather was the unusual amount of wind which occurred during the month. These winds were of cyclonic proportions at times and tended to dry out the top soil.

Temperatures were consistently on the cool side during the month, averaging about five degrees below normal, with unusually cool nights. An extreme drop to below freezing occurred on the 13th in many places. Early alfalfa was "nipped" and dehydrators were set back a week.

The month started with an abundance of rain. The heavy showers of late April continued through the first week of May and helped build up a good sub-soil reserve, in many parts of our territory which had come out of the winter quite dry - especially South Dakota. As indicative of this Mr. R.F. Lund, our Agricultural Agent at Rapid City, S.D., in his report of May 15th states "Aside from the fact that we have had so much winter in the last month, the outlook is very favorable. There is ample sub-soil moisture and with the amount of rains that have come over a wide territory, crops as well as grass will get a good start."

Since April most of our territory has had two inches more than last year and it has virtually all soaked in.

In contrast to the above, a protracted dry spell at midmonth was hard on newly planted garden truck, grasses and other shallow type seeds. Wisconsin was especially dry, receiving only about one-quarter inch of rain between the 5th and 19th.

CORN: Plowed fields were worked down into wonderful condition for corn. In a 100 mile trip north and west from Ames, Iowa through Jewell, Webster City and Fort Dodge, made by the writer on the 18th, newly planted fields looked like gardens. The soil was mellow, free from clods and weeds and gave every indication of being capable of producing another bumper crop of corn. Only one field, as seen from the highway, was sufficiently above ground for the rows to show. Only 10 planters were seen in the fields in the above mentioned area and undoubtedly several of these were planting soybeans. Corn planting was practically all completed in that highly productive area and this is rather typical of most of the state. In northern Illinois nearly all fields were up to a nice stand on the 23rd and near Maple Park, Illinois, forty miles west of Chicago, three cultivators were at work in one field.

OATS: In the main oats are disappointing. Stand is uneven, growth light and far behind normal. Fields receiving fertilizer are much better than those not so treated. Occasional strips were the fertilizer missed, substantiate this observation. The crop in Illinois is materially better than that in any of our other territory.

SOY These were planted under near ideal conditions. Acreage is about the same as last year with a possible increase in Minnesota.
BEANS:

WINTER WHEAT: This has developed satisfactorily and present indications are for a good crop in most of our territory in Nebraska. The crop in South Dakota will be much lighter than last year. Bottom land wheat in western Iowa is very good. Arrival of the first new wheat from the south last week represents the first of an almost continuous six months' outpouring of grain from the fertile fields of the Mississippi Valley

PASTURES: Cool weather has retarded development of pastures. It was late in the month before farm pastures advanced to a point where stock could get full feeding from them. Ranges in the west have been very backward and in some instances ranchers got very low on dry roughage to feed stock. Range animals, on the whole, maintained good condition and both calf and lamb crops are doing well. An unusually large amount of pasture and meadow has been plowed up in Iowa and adjoining states. High guarantee price on corn coupled with unfavorable results of beef cattle operations combined to cause this. Corn acreage is very high. Could be 10% above earlier estimates in principal producing area.

CANNING CROPS: Below normal temperatures which prevailed throughout most of April and May resulted in canning crops making very slow progress. In some areas planting was delayed by the extreme cold spell which froze the top soil in mid-April. As a result early peas in northern Illinois on May 23rd were only 6 inches high in contrast to 12 inches on the same date last year.

POTATOES: Planting of this crop about completed and early fields are well above ground; however, the crop will be materially later than last year.

SUGAR BEETS: Very large acreage planted to this crop and aside from weather damage caused by high winds indications point to a big tonnage. The late freezes did very little damage. Acreage in territory which we serve tributary to factories in South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, is approximately 20% above last year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Tornadoes have been unusually frequent during the past two months. While these atmospheric disturbances normally strike only a limited area they tend to keep people in an uneasy state of mind. This is especially true in rural areas where the wind has a wide sweep and frequently destroys entire sets of farm buildings.

Cool, windy weather in May possibly will have no significance this year; however, several times in the past such conditions have preceded a hot, dry summer.

The Weather Bureau has predicted heavy falls of moisture between May 15th and June 15th. It will be interesting to see if this comes to pass.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8 CROP REPORT
Number 4 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD July 1, 1953

While summer did not officially begin until June 21st, during the two weeks preceding that date much of our territory experienced daily temperatures of around 100 degrees and in many localities early June heat records were broken with extremes as high as 105 to 108 degrees. Average temperatures for the month approximated 10 degrees above normal.

Distribution of rainfall for the month was rather erratic and the pattern was quite unusual in that it was light in areas which usually receive heavy falls and exceedingly heavy in territory which normally receives only moderate amounts. For instance, the states of Illinois and Iowa were dry and during two different weeks rainfall in these states was barely measurable. At the same time out in the Dakotas and in southern Minnesota rainfall was exceptionally heavy throughout the month. Splendid soaking rains were received over much of Iowa and northern Illinois on Saturday, June 27th.

Crops, generally, developed very rapidly as a result of the heat, especially corn, soy beans and grass, but the same heat proved too severe for spring seeded grains in Iowa and Nebraska and yields, especially oats and barley, have lowered perceptibly. Early canning peas were hurt in most areas. In the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin, spring grains are in splendid condition and if rust does not strike, yields should be exceptionally heavy.

From Pierre, S.D. east through Miller and Huron to Brookings it is doubtful if pastures and meadows ever looked better than at this time. Even along the highways growth is so heavy that farmers whose property is adjacent to the highway are getting as much as 50 bales of hay per half mile strip. Spring seeded grain is uniformly good.

CORN: Based on the outlook at this time a 3,250,000,000 bushel crop of corn is a definite possibility. There is an exceptionally large acreage, in the main the stand is good, and other than in some local areas weeds have been cleaned out of the fields in pretty good shape. It will take a large amount of well distributed rainfall to make such a crop of corn; however, it might be well to remember that last year's big crop was produced on approximately four inches below normal rainfall during the growing season. The showers came about as needed and there was very little run-off. It would be unusual to have two such years in succession.

The extreme heat of mid-June dried the top soil very rapidly. At Brookings, S.D. near the line dividing that state from Minnesota, 17 inches of rain were received between January 1st and June 19th yet the soil was cracked and hard on the 19th and gave evidence of the need for frequent showers to keep the corn developing. Incidentally, last year Brookings had a total of only 18 inches of rain and 8 inches of that came during the growing season. At many points in our eastern territory total rainfall since April 1st is several inches below normal.

CORN: It is easy to spot fields where fertilizer, especially nitrogen, (Cont'd) has been applied. A tremendous acreage of corn has been treated thusly and if these fields receive sufficient moisture when needed some phenomenal yields can be expected. The cold, backward spring resulted in a deficiency of available nitrates and in fields not well fertilized both corn and small grains failed to get off to a good start.

WINTER WHEAT: The extreme heat of early June forced maturity of this crop and harvest was well under way in southern Nebraska by June 26th. The crop was sufficiently mature in most places so as not to be seriously injured by the heat. Early yields are very satisfactory. One report of 38 bushels per acre has been received. In most of Nebraska and along the Missouri River Bottoms in western Iowa the outlook is very promising. In South Dakota the crop is spotted; however, there are some splendid yields and total yield will compare very favorably with an average crop.

OATS: This crop is "spotted." In the main, straw is short and uneven, especially in many major producing sections of Iowa. In some fields the spring clover seedlings are as tall as the oats. There is some rust present; however, this may not become serious unless there is a prolonged wet spell during the next few weeks. It is doubtful if the crop in Iowa will equal last year's small one. Dr. H C Murphy, oat breeding expert at Iowa State College, Ames, reports the men who got their crop in early and used plenty of fertilizer will have good oats.

Further north the oats look better. A large field of Shelby variety, inspected by the writer on June 23rd, near Beaver Dam in Dodge County, Wisconsin, looked good for 100 bushels per acre. The crop across Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, has undoubtedly been hurt seriously by the extreme heat; however, there are some splendid fields in northern Illinois.

SPRING WHEAT: There is a very large acreage in South Dakota, which at this writing looks splendid. Rust is about the only hazard to this other than the ever present possibility of hail damage.

BARLEY: While some fields look very good it is doubtful that the crop will be as good as that of last year. The extreme heat hurt this crop also.

SOY BEANS: This crop looks very promising. It got off to a splendid start; fields are clean; stand is good, and the acreage in our area is very heavy. Southern Minnesota undoubtedly has the largest acreage and one of the best prospects the state has ever experienced.

CANNING CROPS: Canning peas have had a "tough" year. Too much cold in April and May; too much heat in June and in some sections such as southern Minnesota, too much water, especially at harvest time. Canning is pretty well along. Yields are not up to those of a year ago and the crop, generally, is spotted. The hot weather forced maturity and made it difficult for factories to keep up. Sweet corn is growing rapidly and condition is outstanding.

SUGAR BEETS: These have developed rapidly and as the bulk of them are grown with supplemental water the crop in our territory should be very large.

POTATOES: These have come along rapidly. In the commercial producing areas around Racine, Wisconsin, prospects are favorable for an early crop. Many men in Wisconsin and South Dakota, producing for later markets, are planning on sprinkler irrigation where water is available.

ALFALFA: Crop was very heavy but of coarse quality when cut due to advanced maturity. Tonnage was exceedingly large and a good deal of hay was put up without rain damage.

PASTURES: After getting off to a slow start due to the cold spring, grass developed rapidly in early June and made terrific growth. By the end of the month it had become woody and most pastures, whether permanent or temporary, had lost a good deal of their palatability. Brome grass, in particular, grew very tall. Due to heavy fall of moisture in our range territory native grasses developed rapidly and while the hay crop will be lighter than usual there should be ample grazing during the balance of the season with a considerable reserve for winter range.

LIVESTOCK: Heel flies are very numerous. Recently a herd of dairy cows in southeastern Minnesota crowded into a small shelter to get away from these pests and two thirds of the cattle suffocated.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

A buyer's boycott over the Corn Belt during the past four months has given the stock cattle market a terrific wallop. The average at the Chicago Market last week was \$14.00 cwt., compared to \$27.00 the same week a year ago. This may be the time to start buying again.

The hot weather experienced during June caused the farmers to be faced with about six jobs at a time instead of one. They never quite got caught up even though they had tractors equipped with headlights and a 24 hour day at their disposal.

Farming is a business that is full of uncertainties. Of these rainfall is without question the most important, especially during the next two months. The size and yield of row crops, especially corn and soy beans, will be determined almost entirely by the amount and distribution of July and August rainfall.

It has been said that most crops are ruined several times by pessimists before they reach maturity. This year is no exception. Many of us thought that winter wheat in the area where it was exceedingly dry all fall would have very little chance. Yet with more favorable conditions during late winter and spring, and an exceptionally cool period in April and May, much of the wheat in these areas developed into a pretty good crop. It is always well to remember that crops, basically, are very hardy and can stand a lot of abuse.

Extreme heat is not good for man, beast or crops. Of these three crops probably suffer most unless they are growing in sections which can be irrigated. With an abundance of water, very few plants are hurt by extreme heat.

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THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED FROM PERSONAL
OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS RECEIVED THROUGH JUNE 29th.)

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8
Number 5

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
August 1, 1953

The month of July was warm and humid in much of our territory. Rainfall was erratic and not patterned nearly as favorably as a year ago. In a number of places three to four inch cloudbursts occurred with only light showers falling in adjoining counties and the month closes with only a light reserve of sub-soil moisture in many sections.

Heavy rains were quite general over Illinois around the 20th and the sub-soil in that state is in good shape. There are quite a number of places in western Iowa where very little rain has been received during the month and eastern South Dakota had not received a general rain for three weeks until heavy showers fell on the 26th.

CORN: Corn has made phenomonal growth. The hot weather, together with a reasonably fair distribution of top soil moisture and the generous application of nitrogen fertilizer combined to force a mammoth growth of stalks; however, we do not feel that the outlook is as favorable as a year ago, largely because of the lack of reserve moisture now existing in many places. As of this date there is a rather extensive area in eastern Nebraska, southeastern South Dakota, southwestern Minnesota and western Iowa where heavy, soil-soaking showers are needed to keep corn and soy beans developing satisfactorily. Well distributed rains during the next few weeks could overcome this problem of lack of moisture; however, without an abundance of rain it will be impossible for many of the fields with a very high population of corn plants to set and mature a big crop of large ears.

Taking everything into consideration we continue to anticipate the 1953 U.S. corn crop to be 3,250,000,000 bushels.

Another adverse condition confronting corn this year is that much of the acreage in the northern states, especially Minnesota and South Dakota, was planted late. During a field inspection trip July 22nd and 23rd the writer found relatively little corn in tassel in South Dakota other than in a limited area in the southeast corner. The crop is 10 days late and while it looked wonderful it will take ideal growing conditions during the balance of the season to fully mature a large crop.

Most of the corn in Minnesota is in good shape and should make a big crop as that state has had ample moisture. Corn in Nebraska needs soaking rains very badly. In the heavy producing sections of northern Iowa the outlook is very favorable.

OATS: 1953 will go into the records as a bad year for this crop. The grain really never had much chance. It was planted late in cold, wet soil and came up in very uneven, thin stands, plagued by weeds. A freeze in May didn't help the crop and June heat which prevailed over all of our territory, together with a serious attack of rust, resulted in light yields and light kernels. For the first time in a number of years we are back to a large percentage of the oat crop weighing under 32 pounds per bushel in contrast to 36 to 40 pounds per bushel, quite common during recent years.

WINTER WHEAT: Harvesting of this crop has been completed and in our territory yields were surprisingly good. Illinois had perhaps the best crop on record. In the south central part of Nebraska, as well as in the northern half, yields were pretty fair. The crop in western South Dakota was above expectations. Some of the Missouri River bottom lands in western Iowa and eastern Nebraska produced well but there was a wide variation in the crop. One of the highest yields reported comes from the Racine-Kenosha area in southeastern Wisconsin.

SPRING WHEAT: Rust struck this crop in South Dakota and cut what appeared to be wonderful prospects down to only average. Many fields were very seriously hurt. In the Gettysburg-Faulkton area one report of a 40 bushel yield and another of a 30 bushel yield were received on the 23rd; however, most of the fields which had been cropped continuously were only expected to yield 12 to 15 bushels with some of the fallow wheat running 25 bushels per acre. The quality of the wheat, as well as the yield, has been injured by rust. Similar conditions prevailed further east in the Watertown area where considerable durum wheat was very severely damaged.

RYE: Yield rather light and quality not up to standard. As usual much of this was grown on light, sandy soil and the dry fall prevented it getting a good start.

BARLEY: On the whole barley is more uniformly good than either oats or spring wheat. While the crop is not a record one most fields are making good average yields and the grain is of acceptable quality.

FLAX: This crop is outstanding in much of our territory at this time. Generally speaking, conditions have been near ideal for it. Early planted fields are ripening and give promise of very high yields.

SOY BEANS: These, like corn, have flourished during the hot July weather and in many sections plants are reaching pod stage. Fields are clean and if sufficient moisture is received in the immediate future there should be a high yield.

POTATOES: Due to extreme heat in July this crop in garden patches throughout the Corn Belt is very poor. In the commercial producing areas further north conditions are better. Rains have been pretty well distributed and in most of the Wisconsin commercial producing zones but even so a number of the large growers have supplemented the rain with sprinkler irrigation. A good crop is maturing in those areas. In the big producing sections of northeastern South Dakota rains are needed at this time to assure heavy yields of top quality tubers. Vines are in splendid shape and a good two inch "soaker" would finish the crop nicely. Quite a number of the South Dakota growers are irrigating. One exceptional field in the Jim River Valley near Redfield, S.D. looks good for a record yield. Showers fell over the Watertown area on the 28th.

SUGAR BEETS: In our western territory in South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming this crop is in splendid condition, and prospects are exceedingly favorable. There is some question regarding sufficient irrigation water for the entire acreage in the Belle Fourche area should August prove to be a dry, hot month. In both the Kenosha-Racine, Wisconsin zone and in territory around Green Bay, Wisconsin, droughthy conditions up until recent weeks hurt the crop but prospects are now more favorable. Prospects are splendid in the Mason City area in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota.

RANGES: On the whole these are in very good condition, especially in South Dakota where the grass is gorgeous. May and June rainfall was just about "right" for the grass all through the western two-thirds of that state. A considerable amount of range land has been cut for hay. A number of herds of drought cattle from the southwest have been shipped in. Most Nebraska range territory is good, especially in the northern part of the Sand Hills. In Wyoming, conditions are somewhat spotted. The extreme heat immediately following showers made it difficult for the grass to get started. Prospects are best in the southern part of the state.

PASTURES: These are short in our eastern territory at this writing, and considerable feeding of hay is being done. Irregular rainfall is largely responsible for this condition together with insufficient acreage of grass for the relatively large number of cattle on hand.

CANNING CROPS: In most of our big producing areas of northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, sweet corn is developing satisfactorily, and harvest will start within a few days. In most instances yields will be heavy. Pea canning has been completed with the late crop somewhat better than the early one. Total production will be under last year. Beans are being canned at this time and beets, carrots and other crops are making very satisfactory progress.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

It would be simple to estimate the corn crop if irrigation water were available. A two inch soaking would do wonders now. Some day we will have ponds to catch the flood water running off our land and we will use the water from these to irrigate our corn during late July and early August.

Large numbers of corn pickers seen on passing freight trains remind us that the season for their use will soon be here. These useful machines play a very important part in modern corn production.

A corn field on a steep Iowa hillside showed a terrific amount of erosion. This field had been recently broken out of pasture quite probably due to the high incentive for more corn production. Uncle Sam through soil conservation techniques is endeavoring to keep such fields in soil conserving crops. Too bad his efforts have to meet with such frustration.

Supplemental nitrogen on the corn fields is showing up wonderfully well. Plants have grown rapidly; are possessed of a deep green color and given a fair amount of moisture, should produce big ears and result in high acre yields. Apparently we are just starting to appreciate what can be done with supplemental nitrogen and an abundance of other fertilizer.

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FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND
REPORTS RECEIVED THROUGH JULY 28th

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8

Number 6

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

September 1, 1953

The last week of August was one of intense heat with maximum temperatures in the high 90s, over the entire midwest and this, together with an almost complete absence of rain since the first week in the month, has hastened maturity of the corn crop at too fast a pace. This will not be fully apparent until husking and shelling time. In those areas fortunate enough to have had abundant summer rainfall - i.e. - northern Illinois, northern Iowa, southern Minnesota and southeastern South Dakota as well as parts of northeast Nebraska, the damage will not be serious. On the fringes of this area the crop has been severely hurt.

CORN: As of this writing our estimate of the national corn crop is 3,150,000,000 bushels. On both July 1st and August 1st we predicted 3,250,000,000 bushels and we still feel that this estimate was a conservative one. The reduction is primarily due to the almost complete absence of rain during the past three weeks and the current heat which is forcing maturity and shrinking the grain.

There has been deterioration in some places and some slight improvement in others. Iowa's state average is bound to be lowered because of the setback to the crop in the southern part of the state. In the northern half of both Iowa and Illinois as well as southern Minnesota the corn, on an average, is equal to any year on record.

The bulk of the crop is approaching the dent stage in most primary producing areas, and most of it has reached a point where it will be safe from frost within a short time. The Minnesota crop is still as much as a week behind normal but developing rapidly.

Iowa is a relatively small state yet ironic as it may seem the southeastern quarter of the state has suffered from a two months' drought and the corn crop has been cut almost in half while in the northwest quarter of the state rain has come about as needed and there are many reports of the corn there being the best on record. July and August rainfall constitute the biggest single factor in determining the size of the crop.

Corn on pump irrigated fields in south central Nebraska looks gorgeous. Adjacent dry land corn is badly hurt. The pumps could pay for themselves this year.

MOISTURE: Rainfall throughout the entire summer has been erratic and we anticipate that when harvesting of corn begins there will be much more variation in yields than occurred last year. For example eastern Nebraska has had only 4½ inches of rain in the two months period July and August compared to 9 inches last year and this difference will be responsible for a cut in the state corn crop of well up to 100,000,000 bushels. On the other hand South Dakota has had considerable more rain than last year and Minnesota had over 8 inches in July and August this year and has come through with flying colors the same as a year ago when heavy midsummer rains were received.

SMALL GRAINS: The harvesting of small grains in our more northern areas has been completed after being delayed two weeks by wet weather. There was some deterioration in quality of shocked and windrowed grain during the wet spell.

Early spring wheat which matured ahead of the worst rust infestation yielded pretty well, but late bread wheat and Durum was cut severely.

Winter wheat seeding has started on fallow land in western Nebraska, western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming. The fields are in near perfect condition and the grain should sprout promptly. Last year these areas were very dry all fall.

This has been a bad year for oats. The crop in the more northern regions proved somewhat better than those which were reported last month. A number of fields in Upper Michigan yielded as high as 80 to 90 bushels per acre but these were an exception. In most areas the extreme heat of June and early July was just too much for this cool weather plant.

The flax harvest is well under way and yields are quite satisfactory, with 10 bushels per acre fields being numerous.

Second crop clover and third cutting alfalfa were harvested under near ideal conditions. Quality is splendid everywhere with heavy yields in the north but light in Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois.

PASTURES: These are "just fair" in most cases and many poor ones reported. Silage and hay are being fed in many areas.

LIVESTOCK: Flies are unusually bad this year and cows are uncomfortable. Even so there seems to be more milk and butter than the market can absorb.

Moisture conditions in our range territory have been good and there is ample feed to permit stockmen carrying their saleable stock into October. Thus far the tendency has been to hold on to such surplus animals as normally would be marketed in late July and August. This delay in the movement of feeder cattle and feeder lambs, is, to a considerable extent, due to the relatively low market existing for these animals, compared to prices prevailing a year ago. In this connection it is interesting to note that a load of fat cattle sold in Chicago this week represented the first instance of a reported profit in steer feeding in well over a year. These steers had been purchased in May and they sold at \$5.50 cwt. more than the original cost. This should tend to step up purchases of feeder cattle in the Corn Belt.

POTATOES: Early potatoes are moving to market out of our central Wisconsin and northeastern South Dakota areas. Yields are high and quality good. Markets very low. The national crop is approximately thirty million bushels larger than anticipated and this is naturally tending to hold prices down. During the month of July the potato crop in the state of Maine increased to an average of almost 500 bushels per acre, or a total of 70,000,000 bushels for the state. A year ago the state average was 360 bushels per acre. This big increase is bound to have a depressing effect on the market. In Minnesota several days ago one grower was selling for \$1.25 per bag potatoes that a year ago would have easily brought \$4.00 per sack.

SUGAR
BEETS: This crop, other than where damaged by hail, is maturing nicely and big yields are expected. This is especially true in the irrigated sections of western Nebraska and South Dakota where an inspection trip by the writer a week ago showed conditions to be quite satisfactory. Dry weather is checking maximum development in some spots in Wisconsin and in the northern part of the Red River Valley.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The 1953 growing season will go into the records as one of the most peculiar we have ever experienced. August is winding up with a blast of heat such as normally would occur only in midsummer, yet around the 20th temperatures were so low that the canning of sweet corn had to be slowed up because of delayed maturity of the crop. Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin on the Michigan border in the far north resort country reported a reading of 35 degrees on the morning of the 19th and cranberry growers were alerted to flood their bogs.

Heat and moisture, or lack of it, have been the big worries of the farmer this year. Terrific heat in June dried the top soil before row crops covered the fields. Too much rain in late June and early July wrecked the spring seeded grains by encouraging terrific rust infestations. For the past month lack of moisture has been "gnawing" at the corn crop over the southern half of the Corn Belt.

On a corn breeding farm in northern Illinois there is a patch of Mexican corn. This was 12 feet tall on August 22nd and not yet in tassel. Beside it was a patch of Squaw corn fully mature. About the only advantage the Mexican corn seemed to have was its big stalks and terrific brace root system which attached well above ground level. The Mexican "monster" is being crossed with good hybrids to increase resistance to borers, root rot and increase the strength of stalk. Corn, the major crop of this area, certainly embodies a wide variety.

Soy beans have come through the hot weather in good shape and as the big acreage is in regions well favored with summer rains the crop will be large. Leaves were turning on some early varieties in northern Illinois on the 22nd of the month and combining will be under way early in September. This is truly one of our "miracle" crops.

On the morning of the 16th several sprinkler irrigation systems were operating in the proximity of Ainsworth, Nebraska in spite of the fact that the weather was cloudy and a light rain was falling. Men who irrigate are wise to keep their sprinklers going during such weather. Sugar beet factory operators state that they invariably have better beets when there is no rain during the summer as under those conditions farmers will continue to irrigate regularly and give the beets the amount of water necessary for maximum development.

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HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8
Number 7

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
October 1, 1953

September was an ideal "curing" month. The almost complete absence of moisture, coupled with relatively high temperatures and a considerable amount of wind caused both corn and soy beans to dry out exceedingly fast. Corn continued to shrink to some extent but most of the heat damage was done prior to September 1st.

There was a light frost in some local areas on the 13th and a general one throughout most of our territory on the morning of the 22nd; however, these caused relatively little damage as most corn and soy beans had fully matured.

MOISTURE: Drought-like conditions prevailed during the last two weeks of the growing season. Corn and other late crops were "made" largely on moisture which fell prior to August 6th. A few examples of the scanty 1953 rainfall in the southern part of our territory at this writing might be of interest - i.e. - at Missouri Valley, Iowa for the period May through August a total of 6.84 inches were received compared to 20.61 inches a year ago and a normal of approximately 18 inches. At Omaha approximately 14 inches were received from April 1st to date compared to 26 inches a year ago and a normal of 22 inches; at Des Moines, Iowa - total since April 1st is 8 inches below normal. Further north the seasonal rainfall has been much heavier and crops have produced much larger yields; in fact, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin have "hit the jackpot" with their corn and other late crops.

SOIL: The top soil is exceedingly dry and a good three day "soaker" is badly needed for fall seeded grains, spring seeded grasses, pastures and meadows. In many fields the ground is so hard that it is difficult to fall plow. In many instances ponds are dry and most of the creeks in Iowa and Nebraska are almost dry. Even the rivers are exceedingly low.

CORN: It is doubtful if we have ever experienced a year when corn dried out so thoroughly in the short span of a few weeks. The bulk of it is down to around 25% moisture and many growers have started cribbing. Some of the corn is down to 20% and a considerable part of this shelled and dried to 15.5% moisture has gone forward to markets. In some instances it has been hauled back to the farms for storage.

Farmers are doubly anxious to get the corn picked as there is quite an infestation of late brood corn borers and there would be considerable dropping of ears if several days of heavy wind occurred. Many farmers are planning to plow the stalks under to help control borer infestation next year.

By far the best corn in the country is to be found in the northern half of Iowa, Illinois, the northeastern corner of Nebraska and across from South Dakota east through Minnesota and Wisconsin. This puts the geographical center of this year's Corn Belt approximately 200 miles north of where it used to be.

A few fields of late corn were injured by the September 22nd frost; however, these were largely "re-plants" and represent a comparatively small percentage of the total acreage. Much of the late corn has been cut as silage.

CORN: It is pretty hard to estimate the final size of the corn crop
(Cont'd) this year due to conditions being so "spotted." Across the northern edge of the so-called "new Corn Belt" the largest crop of top quality corn ever produced will be harvested. The southern half of Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois have been hard hit and the crop there will be far from the bumper one which earlier seemed within reach.

In our September 1st report we estimated the national crop to be 3,150,000,000 bushels; however, this now looks to be too high and taking into consideration the large number of fields in some areas which will scarcely be worth picking, we now feel that the total crop will exceed an even three billion bushels by only a very small margin. Incidentally, this is still a whale of a lot of corn. In many places the use of large amounts of nitrogen and other fertilizers undoubtedly forced the maximum development of the corn plants and enabled them to produce fairly good sized ears ahead of the drought.

SOY BEANS: Harvesting of this crop got under way about 10 days earlier than originally anticipated and at this writing is well along. The beans are exceedingly dry with most fields testing 9% moisture and on September 22nd some were received in Calhoun County, Iowa which tested 7%. Incidentally, Number One soy beans may contain up to 11% moisture. The yields vary with the bulk in the 20 to 25 bushels per acre range in the heavy producing sections of Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota, although some 35 bushel yields have been reported. In spite of the dryness of the beans there seems to be relatively little "cracking" in combining.

Early planted fields seem to have withstood the hot, dry August weather quite well; however, some of the late fields were hurt, causing beans to run rather small and in many instances only two to a pod. The extreme heat dried the occasional weeds which were found in many of the bean fields and made combining very easy compared to conditions which usually exist between the time the beans ripen and a killing frost getting the weeds.

The market price is about 30% under the Government loan figure and a good many of the early beans have been stored on farms.

POTATOES: Digging has been under way in our territory for the greater part of a month. Most of the early crop went immediately to market with price levels in very low brackets. Some stabilization of the market has taken place within the past few weeks. Yields are very satisfactory and quality splendid. Winter storage is now at a peak with prospects for better prices on this part of the crop.

SUGAR BEETS: Digging has started and yields are very satisfactory. The warm September weather was ideal for adding weight and sugar content to the crop. In irrigated districts there was ample water to encourage maximum development and even the fields which had been set back by July hail damage were able to make remarkable recovery. In the non-irrigated districts of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota the dry September resulted in some curtailment of total tonnage.

PASTURES: These are the poorest they have been in 17 years and in many cases are almost non-existent. A tremendous amount of hay and fodder corn has been used as supplemental feed during the past 40 days in areas where normally there would be an abundance of pasture the entire fall. It is now getting so late that rain would have very little affect on the availability of pasture other than through stimulating fall seeded wheat in areas where it is used for winter grazing.

HAY: In spite of weather conditions, etc. a crop of hay slightly above the 10 year average for the nation was harvested and in the main this was cured in perfect condition. The state of South Dakota has a crop which is 50% above that of a year ago and almost double the normal for that state. As of this writing a much larger percentage of the U.S. hay crop has been fed than normal. Large amounts have been shipped into the southwestern drought areas for immediate feeding - although the total amount for this purpose is lower than a year ago. The big market for feed has been the Corn Belt where pastures "flunked out."

LIVESTOCK: Movement of cattle from the ranges has been light. Many Corn Belt feeders, still smarting over last year's disastrous feeding experience, are insisting on a \$15.00 cwt. level before they will buy. Range men have held stock back in the hopes that the eventual market will work upward. Those cattle which have already been sold to Corn Belt feeders have gone at a price approximately \$11.00 cwt. under those paid a year ago. Bulk of the prices have ranged from \$15.00 to \$20.00 cwt.. It is anticipated that there will be very heavy loadings of range cattle in October although in the northern sections where there is ample roughage quite a number of range men are planning on holding stock over for next year's market.

Spring pigs are moving to market rapidly. Most of these were fed along scientific lines and the bulk are reaching the 225 pound weight level at six months or less. Prices on these animals have been very satisfactory to the producer.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

In our October 1st, 1952 report we wrote as follows:

"In the mad rush to pick corn many farmers each year take unnecessary chances and come out of fields accidents in bad shape. October is the month in which the National Safety Council holds its annual meeting, and, ironically, also the month in which many farm accidents occur. Let's be careful!!!"

We are reproducing this to remind you of the heartaches which are caused through carelessness and also to call attention to the annual meeting of the National Safety Council which will bring several thousand public spirited workers to Chicago during the week of October 18th. Included will be a substantial number who devote considerable time and energy to farm safety problems. Their meetings will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 20th and 21st under the capable guidance of Maynard Coe who for many years has given his best to the perfection of the safety program on our farms.

It is to be hoped many of our readers will be able to attend the International Dairy Show which will be held in the International Amphitheatre in Chicago October 10th to 17th.

THIS IS THE LAST REGULAR REPORT OF THE SEASON

We trust it has proved of value to you and that you have enjoyed this and previous ones as much as we have enjoyed bringing them to you. We will plan on sending you some Christmas philosophy in a special December issue and our first report of the 1954 growing season will be released April 1st.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 8

CHRISTMAS,

Number 8

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

1953

The holiday season is with us once more. We are looking forward to Christmas with its carols, gaily decorated trees, children's anticipation of Santa and the greetings from friends, both old and new. At this wonderful season the fellowship of man is at a peak.

On the wall of our office is a picture of a beautiful farm scene. Behind the neatly painted farmstead is a hillside covered with trees gaily bedecked with Autumn tinted foliage. Obviously, this picture was made at the height of the harvest season. That same farmstead is now undoubtedly covered with a soft mantle of snow such as that which provides the setting for so much of our traditional Christmas music, scenery, poems and literature. As night falls the lights from the windows of the home play on the snow of the outside world and happy children gather around the lighted Christmas tree in the cozy living room. This custom began soon after the birth of Christ and is traditional in the most reverend sense.

The pioneers who settled America had very little of worldly goods. Simplicity marked the celebration of their first Christmas; however, during the three hundred odd years since, the custom has remained one of the most important in our American way of life.

During the year the writer has visited the Hoover Dam and Carlsbad Caverns. While the Dam is awe-inspiring, one notes that it is "man made", a massive combination of concrete, steel, machinery, plus man's skill, knowledge and ingenuity.

On the other hand, the Caverns are just as they were created. When the lights are turned off in these beautiful caverns darkness such as never before experienced occurs and the awesome silence reminds one of the beautiful Christmas carol, "Silent Night."

Agriculturally speaking, the year has been a relatively good one in our territory. Timely rains during the summer did wonders for Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota. To the south of these states corn and soy beans were produced largely on moisture which fell prior to August 1st. The Corn Belt really moved 200 miles north of its old stamping grounds."

In yield per acre Wisconsin led the nation with 58½ bushels; furthermore, this corn matured beautifully. Iowa, the "Tall Corn State" as usual was the big producer in total bushels and for the first time South Dakota excelled Nebraska, "The Cornhusker State" in yield per acre.

I have before me two ears of corn - one is 12 inches long, weighs a pound, has 1200 kernels and is beautifully shaped. The other is two inches long, weighs about an ounce, has only 50 gnarled, twisted little kernels. It would be hard to get a casual observer to say anything complimentary about the little "runt." Yet it, and others like it, are responsible for the big ear. This little nubbin represents the tenth generation of inbreeding at a hybrid seed corn farm. Only twenty years ago hybrid corn was laughing stock in the eyes of most farm folks and represented only one tenth of one percent of the nation's crop yet today almost 100% of the corn grown is hybrid.

During recent years there has been a veritable revolution in agriculture. A few illustrations of some big changes may serve to show what has been going on:

A few weeks ago in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota we learned that approximately 99% of the sugar beets had been harvested by machine. It is only a matter of a few years since the first clumsy, home-made digging machine was tried out there. Potatoes, too, are being dug and loaded quite successfully with the modern two row digger. It would seem it will only be a short time until most of the spuds produced will be harvested this way.

In California recently on one side of the highway about 50 men were seen crawling along the rows of cotton picking the crop by hand, while across the road a cotton picking machine, operated by one man with another on the wagon which was hauling the cotton away, was accomplishing about the same amount of work with relatively little human effort involved.

In crossing Iowa at night during the corn harvesting season one could not help but be impressed with the number of headlights going up and down the corn rows. These were on tractors drawing picking machines. Many of these pick 1,000 bushels a day and the operation involves very little human effort. Quite a contrast to a few years back when the staccato of ears hitting the bang board as they were laboriously tossed from the stalk to wagon by ruddy cheeked corn pickers could be heard from every field as one passed down a rural midwest road.

An Iowa elevator operator recently told of an incident some 20 years ago when a farmer delivered a horsedrawn wagonload of shelled corn. As he emptied the load he noted an unusually large amount of chaff and asked the reason. The farmer replied that he had shelled the corn by hand. Shelling the 55 bushel load probably required three days of hard labor on his part and resulted in some pretty sore fingers, palms and wrists. In contrast to this, recently in one community in northern Illinois custom corn shellers were operating on five farms and delivering the corn in truckloads to nearby elevators at a rate of approximately 4,000 bushels each per day.

In 1953 vast sections of our nation suffered severely from drought. It is quite probable that water is destined to become America's greatest problem. Even today, many cities are finding it necessary to dig deeper wells and to go greater distances to obtain a constant water supply. In seasons of below normal rainfall shallow wells, creeks and even rivers go dry. That water which is stored underground is, basically, seepage from the high mountains. This may some day be depleted. Few people realize that the average family uses 500 gallons of water per day. Even fewer realize the tremendous amount used by plants in the production of food.

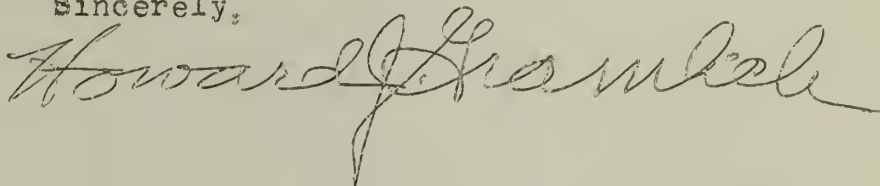
To produce big crops it is necessary to have and to keep good soil. A real estate dealer in Sioux City, Iowa, possessed of considerable initiative, has a slogan on his window for which he apparently received incentive from the closing statement of the now famous address of General McArthur. This slogan reads "Old soldiers may fade away but real estate lives on forever."

Our Christmas greetings usually show scenes of yesteryear - the return to the farm, ox teams, horse drawn sleighs, etc. and we are apt to think with nostalgia of the "good old days." However, let us bear in mind that while the shift to modern things has brought many problems we can truly rejoice in these newer things which have taken so much of the back breaking labor out of agriculture and given us more leisure time for our family and friends.

It has been a pleasure to bring you this bit of Christmas philosophy, in addition to our monthly reports during the growing season, and we will look forward to again being with you in 1954.

May the holiday season and the year 1954 hold much in store for you and yours.

Sincerely,



HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9 CROP REPORT
Number 1 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD April 1, 1954

Another crop season is about to begin. We have experienced an abnormally warm winter, with little snow, few storms, but considerable wind and, until recent weeks, a definite lack of moisture.

The large crops of 1953 were produced mainly on moisture from rains which fell before August 10th. Most of the territory served by our lines received from 3 to 6 inches during the period from July 20th to August 10th and this was responsible for the bumper corn and soy bean crops; however, from that date on an exceedingly dry period occurred. The drought was temporarily relieved in some areas by moisture in November, then it remained dry until near the end of February and only in the latter part of March did real soaking rains reach the greater part of our territory.

There was an unusual number of exceedingly windy days throughout the winter and these raised dust storms in many areas. They were especially bad in the southwestern "dust bowl" area; however, in that part of the Great Plains in Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, served by our lines, the damage was not too serious as the wheat in most cases was well rooted and withstood the wind fairly well.

February was an unusually warm month with temperatures in South Dakota averaging 18 degrees above normal and at the end of the month a considerable amount of very welcome moisture was received.

The ice went out of the Missouri River as far north as Yankton, South Dakota on February 15th; frost was out of the fields in central Iowa by that time and a great deal of farm work got under way. Many corn stalk fields were prepared for oats and some seeding was being done as far north as Ames, Iowa on the 24th. A great deal of plowing was also done at that time in spite of the fact that "old timers" in central Iowa were sure "it was a mistake to farm in February."

While colder than February March brought moisture in the form of wonderful rains and heavy, wet snows. These fell slowly and were all absorbed by the dry soil. Feed lots in northwestern Iowa, eastern Nebraska and eastern South Dakota which had been dry all winter became quagmires. This moisture, in the areas where received, temporarily alleviated the serious drought situation; however, there is still an accumulated deficiency of from six to ten inches since January 1st, 1953, in many parts of our territory, and the bulk of this deficiency has occurred since August 1st, 1953.

WINTER WHEAT: This is "greening" nicely and with favorable conditions could make an average crop. In some sections the fall moisture was so light that the seed failed to germinate and these fields will have to be planted to other crops.

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

CONTROL At this writing there is a tremendous amount of speculation as
PROGRAMS: to what will be done regarding acceptance of the control programs.
Compliance on the part of corn farmers is apparently going to
be light. Farmers intentions to plant, as released by the U.S.D.A. would
indicate relatively little reduction in acreage and interviews with corn
producing farmers throughout our territory confirms this. The feeding ratio
at this time is exceedingly favorable and this is the determining factor.
Hogs at present prices are bringing returns for the corn fed considerably
above what might be realized from the sale or storing of the crop. Any change
in the corn acreage as does take place will undoubtedly be largely to soy
beans. The current high market for this commodity is the added inducement.

POTATOES: The market for potatoes has remained on a very low level all
winter, many producers having failed to realize more than the
actual cost of handling the tubers out of storage and getting them to market.
It is anticipated that the acreage of this crop will be cut materially.

IRRIGATION Snowfall in many of the mountain ranges supplying water for
WATER: reservoirs in irrigated sections was well below normal on March
1st; however, considerable fall has occurred in the last month.
In areas serving our territory the total accumulation is about normal. High
passes in the Wind River watershed of Wyoming reported up to 84 inches of
snow, with a water content of above 26 inches, which is about normal for that
territory.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Windy, dusty weather experienced during recent months in the High Plains
remind one vividly of the conditions existing during the springs of 1934 and
1935. Several trips through the "Dust Bowl" area at that time were experien-
ces never to be forgotten. Our only hope is that present conditions are not
the forerunners of another drought.

Recently the writer appeared before a group which he had addressed four
years previously. Some of the changes which have occurred during that time
were mentioned. One of the most important is the increase in population of
the U.S. There has been an increase of ten and one half million since April
1st, 1950. The population of Iowa is two and one half million; therefore,
figuratively speaking four states of Iowa have been added to our population
in the last four years. Stating it another way, we have added a population
almost equal to that of Canada. This terrific increase in population is
eventually going to produce a situation directly opposite to the current one
in which food surpluses predominate. It is estimated that we will have a
population of 213,000,000 by 1975. If this comes to pass there will be a
terrific scramble for every pound of meat and bushel of grain produced. By
the time this letter reaches you, the population of the U.S. will be
162,000,000.

Food production is a mighty important business. Last year 44,000,000
families in the U.S. spent an average of \$1,000 each for food. This was 30%
of their income. The farmers of America at this time are getting ready to
satisfy next year's appetites.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED }
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND }
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND INCLUDING MARCH 26th. }

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CROP REPORT
Number 2 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD May 1st, 1954

As usual, April was a month of wide variations in temperature; for the most part below normal, although a few warm days were interspersed between the cool spells. As a result of this condition canning peas which were planted in northern Illinois on Monday, April 12th, were up by the end of that week following several days of eighty degree temperatures. There was considerable windy weather, with several dusty days in our western territory.

Moisture varied from generous in Illinois, Wisconsin and most of Iowa, to extremely light in the greater part of Minnesota, the Dakotas, Wyoming and much of Nebraska. Most of the rain received in the more favored areas fell after the 20th of the month. Tile drains, which have been dry for almost a year in northern Illinois and Iowa are starting to trickle; however, for the most part in Iowa the subsoil is still dry and a large amount of soaking rain will be needed to get back to a normal basis.

Some flooding occurred in the Eau Claire, Wisconsin territory at mid-month and heavy local showers of up to 3½ inches along our main line in western Iowa from Jefferson to Missouri Valley brought streams up to bank level for a few hours. Prior to this these had been very low for almost a year, some being dry for the first time since the area was settled 100 years ago.

SMALL GRAINS: Showers and low temperatures early in the month delayed seeding and most small grains were planted about a week later than usual. In spite of this good stands are reported with early seeded fields up to a splendid start.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop is quite promising in most places. In northern Illinois it is getting quite tall and some growers, especially on valley land, feel that they should have "pastured" it earlier. If seasonal showers occur in our Nebraska winter wheat territory a pretty good crop could be looked for.

SOY BEANS: Planting of this crop will get under way shortly and prospects are for a greatly increased acreage. The "run away" market for soy beans, which has resulted in an advance of \$1.50 per bushel since harvest, is sufficient to guarantee a big acreage.

CANNING CROPS: Planting of peas started in northern Illinois April 12th. Most plantings since then have been about on schedule. Many Wisconsin canners were set to start planting on the 26th.

SPRING PLOWING: Plowing for corn and soy beans is about completed. A relatively large amount of this was done during the winter months due to absence of frost in the ground. At this writing fields are almost ready for planting.

PASTURES: These are backward. The dry fall and heavy grazing last year together with cool weather earlier this month, combined to check growth of grass. At mid-month cattle in Iowa were roaming about aimlessly in pastures which showed a tinge of green but were providing very little feed. Occasionally a herd was seen in stalk fields. These brown, badly weathered, unpalatable corn stalks offered very little to hungry "critters."

IRRIGATION WATER: In the Rocky Mountain range area considerable moisture was received during March and April and supplies of reservoir water for irrigated districts are now much more favorable than a month ago. The Ormond Reservoir at Belle Fourche, S.D., measured 123,000 acre feet on April 6th, almost double that of 30 days earlier, and double the amount it contained a year ago on the same date. In Wyoming, where the outlook for water was quite favorable a month ago, there has been further improvement. Togwotee Pass showed a reading of 103 inches of snow, containing 34 inches of water, compared to 27.3 inches a year ago and a long-time average of 28.8 inches. This is rather typical of the situation at most of the Wind River Headwater reporting stations.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

As the leading corn hauling railroad in the country we are glad to be able to remind our readers of some of the wonderful qualities and characteristics of this all-important crop which thrives best in the great Mississippi-Missouri Valleys:

The Easter parade is over and the corn parade is on! All over the Corn Belt the golden kernels are going into the ground. During the first two weeks of May approximately 60,000,000 acres will be planted. In Iowa, alone, often over 1,000 acres are planted to corn in a single day.

In 1935 a farmer in McLean County, Illinois asked two scientists to help him raise 100 bushels of corn per acre. This was considered a maximum. Today we are shooting for 300 bushels per acre. We used to think big ears of corn signified large yield. This has proven to be a myth. Today, plantings are made much thicker and even though the resulting ears are smaller the total yield is greatly increased. Three big factors influencing yield of corn per acre are: 1-Good hybrid seed. 2-Plenty of fertilizer. 3-Heavy plant population per acre.

Corn is by far our most prolific crop. It produces double the yield per acre as wheat and does so from one-eighth as much seed.

Man consumes more corn per year than a hog - in part because corn is the primary feed used in producing meat, milk, poultry, eggs and the various other animal products which make up a liberal part of the American diet.

Evidence of spring is all about us. Budding trees, singing birds, baby lambs awkwardly ambling about and young pigs scampering here and there are ample proof that the most wonderful season of the year is about to begin.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED)
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND)
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND INCLUDING APRIL 26th.)

ERRATUM: Last sentence in fourth paragraph of Page 2 should read

"often over 1,000,000 acres are planted to corn in a single day."

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400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR-AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9
Number 3

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
June 1, 1954

Generous rains fell over most of our territory during the last week in April and the first week in May, but following that date the weatherman "closed the spigot" and practically no rain was received during the next three weeks. A freak storm on the 23rd brought varying amounts of moisture to eastern Nebraska and a considerable part of Iowa. Down-town Omaha received only .22 inches while the west edge of town received two inches and four inches fell in territory only twenty miles away. Such storms in late May could be an omen of a season of below-normal moisture.

Lack of rainfall during the greater part of the month made it possible for farmers to keep ahead of their field work and, as a result, the close of the month found planting of all major crops pretty well completed. Corn went in at a very rapid rate and just about on schedule, the bulk of it between May 10th and 17th. Many soy beans were also planted early, some as early as the first fields of corn.

Temperatures during the greater part of the month were below normal with freezes on several successive nights. This was an abnormal situation as it usually warms up quickly after cold snaps in May. There was also a considerable amount of snow in the more northern sections, Watersmeet, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula just across the line from northern Wisconsin receiving 24 inches on Friday, May 7th. To add to the confusion, between the cold spells there were several very warm days and nights, around the middle of the month.

CORN: This crop was planted in record time. In Iowa 6,500,000 acres were planted during the week of May 10-15th. This is two-thirds of the state's acreage and represented an average of over 1,000,000 acres per day. Temperatures in the high 80s on the 15th and 16th, with night temperatures remaining in the high 50s, throughout most of our corn producing territory, resulted in very rapid germination. A trip across the central part of Iowa along our main line on the morning of the 19th found the bulk of the fields already up with rows showing clearly. Some corn was seen equally far advanced on the same date in the Worthington-St. James area of central Minnesota. A similar trip on May 24th found virtually all corn up to a nice start and fields free of weeds. There is a tremendous acreage planted to row crops, corn and soy beans in all areas.

Chemical insecticides have been used quite extensively in conjunction with starter fertilizer and insect damage should be well under control. A large amount of sod was plowed late and planted to corn. Some of these fields proved to be a bit dry and without ample surface moisture during the next few weeks, stands of corn in these fields might be uneven and unsatisfactory. On the whole, however, at this time condition of the crop in most areas is good.

LIVESTOCK: Cattle, hogs and sheep have done exceptionally well. The spring crop of young animals is large and relatively light losses have occurred. In most instances farmers are forcing early spring pigs in order to reach market as quickly as possible. This situation is due to the abnormally high market and the realization that the total hog crop this year will be much larger than that of a year ago.

More and more farm flocks of sheep are seen. They seem to fit into the economy of the average Corn Belt farm and help to use some of the grass and other feed formerly consumed by horses.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

In the past, often a cold, dry May has been followed by a hot summer of less than normal rainfall. We sincerely hope that such will not prove true this year.

In our May report we stated that at the peak Iowa farmers would plant as much as a million acres of corn per day. It now develops that they averaged slightly over one million acres per day for the week of May 11-17th and succeeded in planting two-thirds of the entire acreage of the state during that period.

This is the season when heavy rains are likely to cause considerable erosion in hilly sections. The heavy rains in late April washed gullies in newly seeded oat fields and the soil loosened by the disks was washed down the hill, starting with mere crevices a few inches wide and spreading to as much as three feet as they reached the foot of the hill. Entire hillsides covered with these evidences of erosion meant that many hundred tons of fertile top soil had been washed off the farm and into larger streams where, as sediment, they would eventually wind up at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Terraces at intervals across these steep hillsides seem to be the only solution to the problem of these drastic losses of loosened soil which occur in the early spring following heavy rains.

Few people realize that a one inch rain deposits 113 tons on one acre of ground (209 ft. x 209 ft.)

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND
INCLUDING MAY 25th.

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CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9
Number 4

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
JULY 1, 1954

High temperatures and frequent rains kept crops "booming" during June. The dry weather which prevailed during most of May enabled row crops to get a good start and farmers were able to control weeds. As a result of this, in most cases, corn and soy bean fields are clean and at this late date probably will not be bothered too much by weeds.

Excessive rains late in the month produced floods, especially in northeastern Nebraska and Iowa. On June 22nd, in the highly fertile area of north central Iowa it was estimated three quarters of a million acres of crop land were under water. The excess water has drained off quite well and in most places where it was necessary to replant, farmers turned to corn, soy beans or early maturing varieties of Sudan Grass.

While severe flooding occurred over the level fields, the streams carrying off the water were kept under control and serious damage to towns in the area was minimized. On the morning of June 24th the Des Moines River, at Des Moines, reached a flood stage of 30.19 feet; however, the dikes held and the waters started to recede slightly a few hours later.

The extreme heat "forced" the small grain crop and in our more southern areas maturity was hastened and yield per acre undoubtedly cut to some extent.

The protracted spells of wet weather made it difficult for first cutting alfalfa to be cured, resulting in a great deal of damaged hay. Yield, however, is quite satisfactory.

Pastures thrived and livestock literally waded up to their knees in grass throughout most of the month.

Only in limited areas in our extreme western territory has rainfall failed to register normal.

CORN: As of this writing corn looks exceedingly promising. Stands are good, fields are clean and the plants have made phenomenal growth. Aside from losses in flooded areas late in the month there should be maximum production from the acres planted. While acreage losses will be quite severe in limited areas due to the floods, we feel that the percentage of the total acres planted to corn at this date is well above average due to very small loss of stand in most areas.

Based on curtailed acreage due to the Government control program and the outlook for the crop as of this date, we would anticipate a three billion bushel yield, assuming of course that rains come as needed during the next two months; however, a July 1st estimate of the size of a corn crop is pure guesswork. The amount and distribution of rain during July and August are the deciding factors.

CORN: The acreage of corn has been cut to some extent. In cash
(Cont'd) corn producing areas farmers have apparently endeavored to keep within the control program; however, in those sections where most of the corn is fed to livestock there has been nowhere near the compliance hoped for.

At mid-month corn in the more northern section of Nebraska and in South Dakota and part of Minnesota was somewhat small; however, the extreme heat of the past two weeks has enabled it to do a pretty good job at "catching up." In the Missouri Valley bottomland area between Omaha and Sioux City condition of the crop was the best ever experienced in that region until the time of the floods. Some damage occurred where the dikes broke; however, the overall picture in this territory is still very promising.

A tremendous amount of fertilizer has already been used and additional applications are being made. With a reasonable amount of moisture during the balance of the growing season corn could make a phenomenal yield per acre.

WINTER WHEAT: This crop is about one week ahead of normal. Combining has started in southern Nebraska and will get under way in the western Iowa territory within a few days. The crop thrived on the weather which prevailed during most of the spring and gives promise of being materially better than was thought possible three months ago. The only "fly in the ointment" now is the fear that extreme heat during the time the heads are filling may cause light weight kernels.

OATS: The outlook for this crop varies. In many areas the straw has made good growth and heads seem to be filling satisfactorily. These fields should produce a big crop. Up to this time there has not been a serious outbreak of rust which caused so much trouble last year. Because of the adverse weather during May, with its heavy freezes, oats in Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois may not come up to expectations. Further north in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas, conditions are very satisfactory and we look for very good yields in those areas.

SPRING WHEAT: In our Minnesota and South Dakota territory this crop is in splendid condition. Acreage has been materially reduced; however, fields are clean and unless rust should hit as it did last year we anticipate a splendid yield.

BARLEY: Total acreage is considerably larger than a year ago, with some switching from spring wheat to barley. The outlook is very favorable and with seasonal weather between now and maturity we should have a very good crop.

FLAX: Early fields are starting to bloom and even those fields which were re-seeded after the freezes in late May are nicely above ground. The over-all prospect is very satisfactory.

SUGAR BEETS: These have "boomed" during the past two weeks; however, up to mid-June they had made rather slow progress, especially in the west where more warmth was needed. While some replanting had to be done following the late May freezes the total acreage involved in that process was much less than last year when severe winds and freezes played havoc with new plantings. On the whole, the outlook for this crop is very favorable.

SOY BEANS: There is a tremendous acreage of soy beans all through our territory - probably the largest on record in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Stand is good - in fact it may be a little too good if the weather should turn dry; however, in the main, fields are very clean and there will be very little weed competition for the reserve moisture. A considerable amount of the land which normally would have gone to corn has been planted to beans and in areas where late June floods drowned corn a considerable additional acreage of this land will go to early maturing varieties of soy beans. The old crop is almost completely cleaned up and the cash market is still tantalizingly high. This has proven quite an incentive in encouraging planting of a big acreage of beans.

POTATOES: In the commercial producing areas plants are making rapid growth and cultivating is well advanced. Growers are spraying and following the best practices on the reduced acreage. The market is quite satisfactory and outlook is much more favorable than at this time last year. Garden patches of potatoes look exceedingly promising in the southern half of our producing territory; however, the tall vines may be deceiving as extreme heat in June usually adversely affects potato sets, shape and quality of the tubers.

CANNING CROPS: Condition of the pea crop is somewhat less favorable than prior to the period of extreme heat of the past two weeks. Yield of the early peas was considered very good; however, outlook for the late crop will depend largely on the amount of moisture and freedom from high temperatures. Sweet corn and other canning crops on the whole are in very good condition.

IRRIGATION WATER: There is abundant irrigation water in all of the reservoirs serving our territory and ample supplies of snow in the high mountain areas should assure plenty of water as needed.

LIVESTOCK: Condition satisfactory. Flies are beginning to bother; however, with abundant growth of grass which occurred during June in most sections, livestock went into midsummer in very good condition. The cold, backward spring resulted in poor pasture up to June 1st. Range sheep are starting to move to market. Most farm flock lambs have been sold and in a few weeks winter farrowed pigs will be reaching market.

The speed with which young animals are made ready for market today is almost fantastic; The bulk of the pigs go when five to six months old; lambs at four to five months and broiler chicks in ten to twelve weeks. The livestock business is certainly on a rapid turn-over basis.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

A trip up the Iowa side of the Missouri River bottoms on June 18th revealed wonderful prospects for crops throughout the 100 mile strip of exceedingly fertile land. Such a sight is always good to see and was certainly in direct contrast to the sight which greeted the writer as he stood on the banks of the Des Moines River in Des Moines on the morning of the 23rd and watched the murky, turbulent waters of that flood swollen stream. Massive, fallen trees rushed by in large numbers and as these hit the bridge pilings there was a resultant crash which only further emphasized the fierceness of a flood. The irony of these June floods is that later in the season every drop of the water will be needed on the same fields where the cloudbursts occurred just a short time before. It is usually safe to figure that following floods rainfall will become erratic.

At this writing there is quite a little similarity between June of this year and that of 1947. In both years rainfall was excessive. In June, 1947 Iowa had a total of approximately 13 inches but July and August totaled less than three inches and Iowa wound up with a corn crop of only slightly over 300,000,000 bushels. Here's hoping there will be a better distribution of rainfall during the next two months than was experienced that year.

A review of the rainfall situation in Iowa for 1948 indicates a fall of practically one inch per week throughout the entire growing season, a total of 10 inches in the three month period June, July and August. This resulted in an all-time record corn crop for that state of 667,000,000 bushels, or more than double that for 1947. Incidentally, a considerable quantity of this 1948 corn has only recently been sold out of Government storage bins and there is still some of it to move. The bulk of it has come out of the bins in splendid condition.

Evaporation is a big factor when temperatures reach the high nineties. A vast amount of moisture leaves the soil either through direct evaporation or through the leaves of the plants growing on it.

As of June 28th there has been no appreciable rain for a week and with daily temperatures in the nineties the top soil is becoming dry and baked. There is no serious damage as yet, but a gentle "soaker" would be mighty welcome. Strange to have such a condition before the flood waters are entirely out of the fertile valleys of the midwest.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND
REPORTS RECEIVED UP TO AND INCLUDING
JUNE 28TH

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
 400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9
 Number 5

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
 AUGUST 1, 1954

July has been a month of extremely high temperatures and low rainfall. Hot winds on several days added to the moisture problem by creating excessive evaporation to the moisture deficiency problem. The "battle line" where cool air from the north forces the moist warm air from the Gulf to higher altitudes where it discharges its moisture load, has moved northward some 200 miles from its usual approximate location.

As an indication of the light July rainfall prevalent at a number of typical central Corn Belt spots, the following might be of interest. Up to the 28th, the total at Des Moines, Ia. was .88 inch; at Cedar Rapids, Ia. - .83; at Sioux City, Ia. - .51; and at Omaha, Neb. - .40.

Considering that the normal rainfall at these typical points of the Corn Belt for the month of July is approximately 4 inches, it is easy to visualize the dryness of the soil. Coupled with this, a good deal of our territory started 1954 with a deficiency of approximately 10 inches in the rainfall for the previous year, and most of this deficiency had been accumulated in the late summer and fall.

The northern part of our territory is in pretty good shape, just as it was a year ago. This includes northern Illinois, Wisconsin, northern Iowa, Minnesota, and a good deal of South Dakota. South of these points the drought is quite acute.

A number of good showers were received in the more favored areas during the month. Around the 20th, a fairly general rain struck across South Dakota with 2½ inches received as far west as Gregory. This also brought welcome relief to most of the heavy producing sections in Minnesota, Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and parts of northern Iowa.

Insects of all types are bad. Corn borer is especially serious in Iowa, southeast South Dakota, and northeastern Nebraska. Army worms are taking their toll in many places also.

CORN: This most worthy crop is being subjected to a good deal of abuse. Six weeks ago it looked like we might have a record crop. The prospects are still good in our more northern territory, with Wisconsin and southern Minnesota showing very good prospects as of this date. In fact, Wisconsin may for the second consecutive year have the highest yield per acre of any Corn Belt state. This is a pretty significant fact when one recalls that only a few years ago Wisconsin was thought of as a state which could produce only ensilage corn.

There is an exceptionally heavy stand of corn in most areas, and plants are too thick to do their best in a dry season without supplemental water from irrigation. Had the normal July rainfall been received the potential yield would have been greatly increased from such dense plant populations.

AUG 5 1954

CORN The hot weather of July in which spells of continuous daytime
cont'd temperatures above 100 degrees were experienced in Illinois,
Iowa, and Nebraska, cut the crop seriously. A trip across
southern Nebraska on the 13th in a temperature of 110 degrees, with a
strong hot south wind, disclosed quite a few fields curled. The plants
gave evidence of being unable to get water fast enough to meet transpira-
tion.

Corn borers are very bad, in fact the worst on record in Iowa. The moths from the first brood are now flying, and eggs for the second brood are being deposited. In the Sioux City area many stalks look as though they had been hit by shot gun pellets as a result of the borings of the first crop borers. Leaves in some fields shake off easily. At this writing it looks like there will be a heavy second crop with much damage in the shanks and resultant falling off of ears such as occurred some five years ago when the last bad epidemic was experienced. In badly infested areas spraying has produced only fair results even where put on by expert operators.

The total U.S. crop has been cut appreciably in the last month. As of this writing, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ billion bushel total could be the maximum produced. We estimated a 3 billion bushel total on July 1.

SOY By and large, the soybean crop still looks quite promising.
BEANS: Plants are somewhat shorter than normal, however we feel that they have stood the adverse climatic factors better than corn and there seems to be no serious insect problem to complicate things for them. The exceedingly heavy acreage in Minnesota looked very good on the 26th. Rains a week before had kept them coming. With favorable moisture conditions in early August we feel that there could be a pretty good soybean crop in the north half of the Belt.

OATS: The oat crop has proven to be very variable. Yields ranging from 15 to 80 bushels have been reported from many areas in the major producing sections; a 35 to 45 bushel average seems to predominate. Early oats: the best with some 80 bushel yields and test weights of 36# to 37#. The early maturing Cherokee, Missouri O-205, and several others seem to be outyielding Clinton and the other strains which were popular a few years ago. The crop was blown badly in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin and harvesting was complicated.

In the main the crop was windrowed, then later combined. A tremendously large percentage of the straw has been collected by baling. In both Minnesota and Wisconsin quite a few farmers cut with binders in order to preserve the full value of the straw.

WINTER Harvesting has been completed. Yields variable. Illinois: a
WHEAT: near bumper crop. Western Iowa: light, especially along the Missouri River valley, where excessive rain in late June was followed by scorching temperatures. Some fields were not cut. Yields of 3 to 10 bushels reported. The Nebraska crop materially better, especially in the northwest part where largely summer fallowed. Likewise, a satisfactory crop in the winner South Dakota area. Many 25 to 30 bushel yields reported.

SPRING WHEAT: The harvesting of this crop is under way with yields materially better in South Dakota than a year ago. The rust infestation was pretty much held in abeyance by the hot dry weather of July, and while the grain shrunk to some extent the loss was not comparable to that of a year ago when a wonderful prospect in that state was cut in two by the serious rust epidemic.

BARLEY: The barley crop is turning out quite satisfactorily. The acreage is much larger than last year and the quality is good.

POTATOES: Near ideal weather for potatoes up to the middle of the month brought the crop forward very rapidly. Since then extreme heat and lack of rain slowed development. In the big producing area around Antigo, Wisconsin, growers were preparing to start sprinkler irrigation systems on the 21st. This would be the first time in three years that irrigation had been resorted to by most of those growers. An abundance of July moisture during those three years took care of the crops. Digging in the central Wisconsin area is expected to start by the 1st of August, and with the good market available growers are inclined to dig and sell as soon as the tubers have reached marketable maturity. Prospects in the northeastern South Dakota area are good.

SUGAR BEETS: This crop has progressed favorably in all of our territory. We are favored in having enough irrigation water in the heavy producing valleys which we serve in South Dakota, northern Nebraska, and Wyoming. This is a condition which does not exist in a number of the large producing areas to the south. Generally speaking, rainfall has been near ample in our Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and northern Iowa-southern Minnesota areas. With well spaced showers during the next six weeks we could have a very good crop in these sections.

HAY: The first crop of hay was put up under adverse circumstances. The rainy weather existing in late June and at the outset of July resulted in much badly damaged hay. Fields which were not cut during the wet weather got too mature and produced a coarse woody hay. Some rain damaged hay was burned. One Wisconsin farmer chopped his in the field and blew it into a manure spreader to be hauled back on the land for fertilizer.

Those who put considerable of their first cutting into silos have a top quality winter feed properly stored.

Second cutting hay has gone up under near ideal conditions with top quality in leafiness and in color. The bulk of this hay is being baled in the field. With the protracted drought over vast areas there will be a tremendous demand for roughage of all kinds. In anticipation of this most farmers are now collecting their oat straw following the combining of the grain. The bulk of them are field-baling it.

PASTURES: Pastures are at a very low ebb. The extreme heat effectively checked the growth of grass and supplementary feeding is starting. Cattle are now aimlessly wandering over grassless pastures--in many instances losing what gains they made earlier when grazing was good

LIVESTOCK: The livestock situation is coming to an acute stage. Range shipments are just starting. Corn Belt farmers are now taking a waiting attitude to see how long it will be before they get rain and their pastures start a second growth. Most range animals have stood the dry season quite well. However, heavy shipments are anticipated in the near future as the reserve of winter feed will be light, especially in the hard-land range country. As usual, the sand hills area of Nebraska has come through in good shape. Many winter and early spring farrowed pigs are now reaching market. The movement of the crop is expected to increase rapidly.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

How short the human memory is! Many folks are asking if our climate is shifting to a warmer basis. These questions have been stimulated by the hot summers of 1953 and 1954 and the mild winter between the two. Back in both 1950 and 1951 we had cool summers, with many shivering humans wondering if the U.S.A. was going back to the Ice Era. Some folks have forgotten that a big percentage of the 1951 corn crop failed to mature because of the cool summer and early freezes, and they likewise have forgotten that the 1950 crop matured only by virtue of a near miracle. That year corn was very backward on September 1st. However, a warm month with no freezes enabled the crop to finish developing. Actually, these variations from year to year always have occurred. However, there is a slight tendency toward increasing temperatures over long periods of time.

To get big yields of corn, it is necessary to have an even distribution of rainfall during July and August. Studies in heavy corn producing areas certainly bear this out. Northern Iowa, for instance, this year received only 1.2 inches of rain in the four-week period June 22 through July 20. Back in 1948 when Iowa produced its all-time record crop that section of the state received 3.71 inches of rain during those four weeks, and this was distributed evenly. During the next four weeks, or between July 20 and August 17, that area received 3.52 inches or a total for the eight-week period of 7.23 inches. All of this came in the form of soaking showers, and what a corn crop the boys had! Abundant showers in early August could still make a good crop in that area.

The Nebraska sand hills constitute a big sponge. There is very little surface run-off from this area which comprises almost one-fourth of the state's total acreage. The water gets down into the lower layers of sand and drifts southward and southeastward under the Platte River and under the level counties beyond. York is one of these counties in which, during the past 20 years, knowledge has been developed pertaining to the availability of a large amount of underground water. Today there are between 250 and 300 pumps putting moisture on corn and alfalfa fields in that county. County-Agent Alvah Hecht feels that eventually the county will have 500 to 600 pumps and the agriculture of the area will be stabilized. Incidentally, there seems to be no serious dropping of the water table--at least it is fully replenished between the seasons when excessive pumping is resorted to. Irrigation has been resorted to in every state in the Union this year.

This is no time to get panicky. A wet August could overcome many of the uncertainties which confront us today.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
 400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9

Number 6

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 1954

Late August has brought about a complete reversal in the moisture situation. Rains of near cloudburst proportions fell in many places during the last two weeks of the month. In some instances more rain fell during this two-week period than had been received during the previous 7-1/2 months of 1954. Temperatures during August included a two-week period early in the month which was rather cool--nights getting too cool for corn, and temperatures in Wisconsin getting so low that a light freeze was experienced in some cranberry bogs. Late in the month a spell of very warm weather occurred which was ideal for forcing and maturing crops.

A study of the rainfall by districts in our territory during the dry 5-week period June 22 to July 27, and the more recent 4-week wet period July 27 to August 24, produces some interesting observations. In general, two to three times as much rain fell in the 2nd period as in the 1st. The most extreme variation is in the eastern one-third of Nebraska--where during the 1st period only .11 inches fell vs. 4.90 in the 2nd. Even in northern Iowa 1.74 fell during the 1st period, and 5.36 during the 2nd. By and large, Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and southern Minnesota fared pretty well during both periods; and that to a large extent accounts for the splendid corn in those areas.

CORN: After being subjected to a terrific amount of abuse during the hot dry weather of midsummer, corn has responded to the August moisture and shows considerable improvement, especially in areas where it was not too far advanced during the drouth. Unfortunately, the crop was quite early in most areas and was at a very critical stage during the dry weather. Where this condition prevailed the bulk of the corn was too far along to come back. In these sections there are many stalks without ears, others with ears that were very poorly fertilized--some even having two sets of kernels upon them: the earlier now reaching maturity and those from the second fertilization just coming into the milk.

Corn borers are still bad in many areas. They are a serious factor in Iowa, parts of southern Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Inspections made in the irrigated valleys in western South Dakota and western Nebraska late in the month disclosed the presence of quite a few borers in those areas. The real damage which the second brood causes is not yet manifest. By boring through the shank of the ear they stop the food supply and the ears wither at an immature stage, many of them falling to the ground a little later. It is too early to predict what effect the excessively wet spell of late August may have on the damage by these borers.

Most corn is pretty well along, and if frost comes at a normal date we should anticipate that there would be but little damage from immaturity.

At the time we closed our last month's Crop Report on July 28, we stated that the nation's crop could be cut to 2-1/2 billion bushels as a result of the adverse drouth conditions which were still prevailing at that time. Based on the outlook as of this date, we would expect a crop approximating 2-3/4 billion bushels. There is a big crop in northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, northern Iowa, southern Minnesota, and parts of northeastern Nebraska. These sections had ample rain during most of the summer. In the balance of the territory there is an occasional outstanding field but the bulk ranges from poor to good.

There was an unusual amount of hail during the past month. While many areas were small there were so many of them that the total aggregate is considerable. In one Illinois storm as many as 36 different sections were hit. Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have all suffered in spots.

SOYBEANS: Soybeans have boomed with the August weather. They stood the drouth better than corn, and we look for a terrific crop on the large acreage planted to beans. Minnesota to the far north ranks in fourth position as a producer of this crop, which at one time was considered strictly a tropical plant. Estimates on the soybean crop as put out on August 1st will undoubtedly be raised--possibly by as much as 10%.

SMALL GRAINS: Harvest of grain was practically completed during the month. Spring wheat in Minnesota and South Dakota was cut in yield by a rather heavy rust infection. Dry weather checked the rust to some extent after it had made a rather disastrous start. Out in the big spring wheat area around Miller and Highmore, S.D., the average was approximately 10 bushels per acre--this in contrast to an 8-bushel average in 1953. "Selkirk," the Canadian spring wheat which displayed considerable resistance to rust, was given a thorough trial over most of the spring wheat areas and stood up remarkably well. In Beadle County, S.D., in a number of tests this wheat made better than 20 bushels per acre--in contrast to the bulk of the crop making around 10 bushels.

The flax harvest was the last to be completed. Yields not quite as good as first estimated. Average will be close to 10 bushels.

PASTURES: The protracted period of dry weather resulted in very poor pastures which prevailed pretty well through the month. Toward the close, grass had come back to a point where it was furnishing satisfactory grazing.

LIVESTOCK: Because of the shortage of the range in the far west territory a heavy movement of livestock started late in the month, with prospects for a very heavy movement during September and early October. In the Sand Hills area of Nebraska, grazing remained satisfactory and movement from that area delayed.

The scare over dropped ears in the corn borer infested areas of the Corn Belt caused farmers to start a cattle buying spree early in the month, with a resultant price increase of several dollars per cwt. on most stock cattle. This produced a rather peculiar situation in that stock cattle were selling higher than a year ago whereas fed cattle were selling lower.

POTATOES: Digging of early fall potatoes is under way and practically all of the crop is moving promptly to market. Prices are 100% of parity, approximately \$1.50 per cwt. to the grower. This is a much more favorable situation than existed a year ago. Yields in the spring- and summer-growing sections have been below normal, and with the reduced acreage in the winter potato states it would seem as though the outlook for the potato grower was on a favorable basis.

SUGAR BEETS: This has been a good year for sugar beets. Those grown in the more favored sections of the Corn Belt had ample moisture, while those in the irrigated areas with an abundance of water flourished during the hot dry season. We are anticipating a very high yield per acre in most of our territory. As of this date there has been no hail damage in the growing-sections which we serve in western South Dakota and Nebraska.

OBSERVATIONS

There is an old adage that one extreme follows another. This has been the case as regards moisture in the Corn Belt. During the July drouth, with daily temperatures in the high 90's--and frequently above 100--it seemed as though we were doomed to go through the full force of another drouth such as was experienced in the early '30s. Then the switch occurred and in recent weeks many areas have been put back on a flood basis, owing to as much as 10 inches of rain falling in a single downpour. Too bad such extremes have to occur! What the Corn Belt needs is a one-inch soaker per week during July and August; what it gets is a different story.

The only chap who can even up nature's hit-or-miss plan is the one who puts down a pump, and with abundant water in the gravel under his farm throws 800 to 1,000 gallons per minute out onto his fields. One such pumper in central Nebraska started his motor July 3rd and kept it running continuously until late in August, thus producing a near-ideal condition on 95 acres of corn and pasture.

The South Dakota College a number of years ago published a bulletin on the cover of which they depicted a calendar of the growing season. Blocked out in deep red is a strip depicting the period between July 10 and August 15. This is labeled "hazard time." This year that same period proved to be a real hazard time for the corn in the greater part of the U.S.--in fact, in the more southerly areas the damage was pretty much done by July 10. The college bulletin serves as a reminder that we are prone to not have enough moisture and to have an excess of heat during that period.

The soybean is becoming quite a favorite with many farmers. It is a crop which can be machine-handled largely on a one-man basis. There is quite a little flexibility in date of planting and where surface weeds are killed several times before the beans are planted, the crop cultivation is quite simple.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED :
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND :
REPORTS RECEIVED THROUGH AUGUST 26 :

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9
Number 7

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CROP REPORT
October 1, 1954

THE LIBRARY OF THE

SEPTEMBER presented an unusually large variety of late growing season conditions. The rainfall pattern of the summer continued with an abundance in the northern part of the Corn Belt, and a shortage in the southern part. In the first three weeks a near continuous spell of rainy, foggy, cloudy weather, with virtually no sunshine, was experienced in Wisconsin, Minnesota, parts of both Dakotas, and extreme northern Iowa. South of this Belt rainfall was light with from 1/2-inch to one-inch total up to the 24th. Northern Illinois, for instance, averaged 1/2-inch vs. a normal September total of near 4 inches.

Temperatures were not unseasonably low, and accordingly crop development continued satisfactorily.

Much fall plowing was done early, and with an abundance of moisture soils worked into a very satisfactory condition. In Minnesota early plowed fields not being seeded to winter wheat are covered with a near stand of volunteer grain. In a great many cases this is 6 inches high. In some places oats are headed out. This is in extreme contrast to conditions one year ago--when the fields were cloddy, desperately dry, and bare of fall growth.

During recent weeks dry tendencies existed in the balance of our territory, with high temperatures and strong southwesterly winds blowing a good deal of the time. Temperatures near 100 degrees were experienced at some spots as late as the 18th. These conditions were ideal for maturing corn and soybean crops.

This is the third consecutive year that the Nation's largest corn yields have been obtained in the northern part of the Belt, and severe drouth with abnormally high temperatures have hurt the south half of the old "so-called" Corn Belt.

The area of greatest production has shifted almost 200 miles northward. Midsummer rainfall, plus new hybrids, commercial fertilizer and power farming, have influenced the shift.

Frosts held off until the 21st and 22nd, when temperatures hovered in the low 30's. In the main, very little damage was done; in fact, more good than harm. Some damage did occur to late corn in northeast South Dakota.

C O R N : Corn has matured satisfactorily in almost all sections. In Iowa the bulk of it is dry enough to start harvest, and it reached this stage unusually early. Wisconsin corn is fully matured. In Minnesota there are a few fields which have not quite reached maturity. However, by and large, the crop will be one of high quality.

Estimating the corn crop in a year like this is very difficult. Conditions vary so much. We have a whale of a crop in the northern area. Even at Spooner (in northwestern Wisconsin) fields were noted on September

C O R N 22nd which gave promise of making 100 bushels. Probably the
(cont'd) best way to comment on the national crop is to say that we
will have a good deal more corn than looked to be possible at
the end of July, and not as much as there seemed to be in the making on
September 1st. We believe our estimate of 2 billion 750 million bushels
(made a month ago) will prove to be pretty close to the mark when the
chips are all in.

SOYBEANS: This crop is in process of being combined. Most fields have
matured. Even as far north as southern Minnesota all leaves
were shed in quite a few fields by the 15th. Harvest in those northern
areas is just getting under way.

Soybeans are a wonder at taking punishment. Some 25-bushel
yields have been reported from southern Illinois, on fields adjacent to
corn which will not be worth picking because of drouth damage. Even in
the south central part of Iowa and other sections which were exceedingly
hot and dry during July, beans stood the abuse and are making very good
yields.

FALL Abundant August moisture made it possible for all plowing to
SEEDINGS: be done early and in a very satisfactory condition. Seed beds
worked into almost a garden mellowness. Wheat, rye, and al-
falfa went into the ground under near perfect conditions. Early plantings
of wheat and rye are up with a good stand, but showing some marginal
damage due to grasshoppers and other insects. Many new fields of alfalfa
were planted and are well established. Fall seedings of all kinds are get-
ting an immeasurably better start than last year.

SPRING In our extreme north territory there are still a few fields of
SEEDED flax and an occasional field of oats or barley to be combined
GRAIN: out of the windrow. The protracted spell of wet weather has
caused this delay.

POTATOES: Digging of tubers in Wisconsin was delayed by the long spell
of wet weather. Yield satisfactory and quality good. Ten days
of dry weather will permit the harvest to be completed. In South Dakota
the yield was hurt by dry weather.

H A Y : A very heavy second- and third-growth in the northern meadows.
Much of this severely damaged after cutting in early September.
Some windrowed hay finally chopped and left on the ground for plowing
under.

PASTURES: Good in the north but with the limited carrying capacity south-
ward. This especially true of permanent blue-grass pastures
which took a terrific beating during the midsummer drouth. These have
recovered slowly.

Nebraska Sand Hills in very good condition. Western South
Dakota dry, and in most of our Wyoming territory the range is likewise very
short with winter roughage supplies far below normal.

LIVESTOCK: The movement of range cattle and sheep is nearing a peak. Farmers in the Corn Belt have been willing buyers with feeder cattle selling several dollars cwt. above a year ago. The increase in fat cattle prices during recent weeks has helped to stimulate the feeder cattle demand. In addition, in many areas a considerable droppage of corn borer infested ears is anticipated and cattle needed to salvage these.

Lamb movement heavy out of both South Dakota and Wyoming at prices several dollars below last year.

OBSERVATIONS

This continues to be a season of contrasts. Minnesota, Wisconsin, and parts of the Dakotas, have just gone through a three-week period of wet weather with an almost complete absence of sunshine, while southward during that time there has been experienced a warm sunshine with southwest winds and rather notable lack of rainfall.

Iowa has received an average rainfall of 4 inches above normal since April 1st. However, that 4 inches, and probably 4 more, went down the streams in two big floods, and did about as much harm as good.

In connection with the northward movement of the Corn Belt, some unique observations are pertinent. At Spooner, Wisconsin (400 miles northwest of Chicago) Supt. Art Strohman reports that fifteen years ago a field of corn in that northerly section was a novelty except for an occasional patch for ensilage. At that time a plant population of 10,000 per acre was considered a maximum. Now 18,000 plants per acre is considered a maximum. The big shift has been brought about through: (1) irrigation via pumping; (2) crop rotation in which corn follows a three-year stand of alfalfa and brome grass; (3) the use of commercial fertilizer; and (4) the development and use of new high-yielding hybrids. Results: experimental fields making 80 to 100 bushels per acre on light sandy loam soil.

Considerable corn has been cut and shocked for fodder in Wisconsin. This shocked corn will later be hauled in and shredded with the roughage blown into the barns. These Wisconsin farmers are still willing to work the hard way.

A number of southwestern Minnesota men follow the practice of planting six rows of soybeans all the way around their corn fields. These beans are not planted until after the corn has been cultivated and they are ready for harvest ahead of the corn. Result: ample turning room for tractors and machinery while planting, cultivating and harvesting the corn.

Wisconsin leads all Corn Belt states in estimated yield per acre for the second consecutive year. Approximately 40% of its 2,700,000 acres is cut for ensilage.

THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED :
FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND :
REPORTS RECEIVED THROUGH SEPT. 27 ;

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Volume 9 CROP REPORT
Number 8 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD November 1, 1954

ABUNDANT MOISTURE IN OCTOBER has put us in tip-top condition to enter the winter--the best in many years. There is a wonderful fall growth of winter wheat, rye, alfalfa, and other newly seeded crops. Pastures and meadows have made a splendid late growth. The soil in fall plowed fields is mellow and turned over in first-class condition.

All of the above is the opposite of conditions prevailing a year ago when we were bone dry. At that time in many corn fields fires had been started by tractors pulling pickers. Such ground as had been fall plowed was cloddy, and winter wheat in most cases was green only in spots where the fields had been exceedingly well compacted. At that time we were 10 inches below normal for the year's rainfall. This year, in many areas we were 8 to 10 inches above normal.

As a result of the protracted spells of warm, damp foggy weather throughout most of the month, the harvesting of row crops was seriously delayed. Practically no soybeans were combined during the first two weeks, and rains during the last few days have again delayed the operation. Corn picking likewise was seriously delayed.

As yet, the damage done to unharvested crops is not too serious. Some corn was noted growing in the ear in Iowa at mid-month. This was especially true of dropped ears which had settled into the mud, and of nubbins which had remained erect on the stalk. Soybeans absorbed moisture during the protracted wet spell. In fields where moisture had been down to 11% in September, it went up to 13% (and even 15%). Actually some fields were so high in moisture during the one dry week in the month that farmers could not harvest them safely.

In much of our territory a hard killing freeze has not yet been experienced. A freeze would dry things out rapidly and permit completion of the harvest.

In southern Nebraska, where there is a very heavy acreage of grain sorghums, a killing frost is badly needed to permit combining the crop. The crop is a heavy one, and was made after the late summer rains in August.

C O R N : The damage done to corn ear shanks by the second-brood corn borers is proving to be very severe. It is scattered pretty much over the corn growing territory. There are quite a few ears on the ground, and should we have a windy day others would drop. Picking machines are shaking some ears off before they get to the rollers. Men with live stock will be able to recover considerable of the loss providing the fields do not get snowed in for the winter before the first of the year.

As of this writing, in Iowa 25% of the corn has been picked in comparison to 80% at this time last year. In Illinois, 60% has been harvested in comparison to 80% last year. In both states, the bulk of the corn which has been harvested is in the south half. In Minnesota, corn has dried out slowly and only about 10% has been picked.

Chicago and North Western Railway System

Howard J. Gramlich, Director of Agricultural Development

Volume 9

Number 9

THE GREEN AND THE GOLD

CHRISTMAS

1954

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AS WE ENTER THE SEASON OF CANDLES,
HOLLY, PINE CONES, CHRISTMAS TREES, AND
GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL MEN . . . MAY YOU AND
YOUR LOVED ONES BE PERMITTED TO ENJOY A
FULL SHARE!

WE TRUST OUR CANDLES WILL HELP YOU
ENVISION THE FRIENDLY THOUGHTS IN OUR
LETTER, AND THAT OUR STREAMLINER WILL HELP
YOU TRANSPORT THEM TO PLEASANT AND USEFUL
GOALS.

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CHRISTMAS HAS ROLLED AROUND AGAIN!

How happy we are to bring you our usual greetings.

The candle is especially symbolic at this season. It symbolizes the sacredness of Christmas. It stands for man's inability to see in the dark. In a sweet story in one of Robert Louis Stevenson's works he tells of a child in an English home with his little nose pressed against the front window peering out into the darkness of a murky London evening. The lighter of the street lamps is approaching. The mother asks the child what he is peering at, and he states that he is watching the man "punch holes into the darkness."

Throughout the greater part of several centuries the candle was virtually the only light available to man. Then 100 years ago a man drilled a hole in a salt mine in Pennsylvania and a gummy black fluid emerged. From this an early-day genius developed kerosene--which for a very few years gave an improved type of light. Later, Thomas A. Edison (at the age of 32) invented the electric bulb, and now our homes, churches, schools and shops are a blaze of brilliance. What a change there has been in the short span since Edison gave us that first crude electric lamp!

A quarter of a century ago, when this distinguished American had reached the ripe age of 82, he made a most interesting prediction: "The next 25 years will witness startling development along scientific lines." How true he was in his foresight! And now, Gwilym A. Price, President of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, predicts that 25 years hence--on the 100th Anniversary of the electric light--"we will be enjoying new products and services virtually undreamed of now, with better health, better educations, and better homes."

The Streamliner gliding forth from behind the holly on our cover sheet, symbolizes the great change which has taken place in rail-roading. Similar progress has occurred in every phase of agricultural activity and life.

On the wall before me hangs a picture. It is a threshing scene of old. In the foreground is the steam engine belching huge clouds of black smoke. Most important of all are the two little tow-headed lads in overalls standing with their backs to the camera. One is admiring the greasy engineer and doubtless setting his sights to take his hero's place when he becomes a man. The other is absorbing knowledge from a grandfather in patched shirt and overalls as the two gaze along the glistening belt toward the threshing machine.

To both boys, enchantment reigns supreme. The grime of the greasy engine is completely subjugated by its puffing, its hissing steam, its smoke, and its air-piercing whistle.

The separator, with its cloud of dust, its sharp chaf, and its near unbearable heat on a midsummer day, are as nothing to the young, highly impressionable lads.

These two youths typify the boyhood of thousands of America's men of today. Many of our leaders had their moorings first anchored under similar surroundings.

In the days when the setting of this picture was a commonplace one, approximately 70% of our population lived on farms. Today less than 14% live on farms, and the other 86% are classed as urban. Actually, they are food consumers rather than food producers. It seems odd that we now have far fewer farmers even though our population has more than doubled since the turn of the century. In the four and one-half years since the 1950 census was taken it has increased an amount approximating the total population of the Dominion of Canada.

Another generation and there will be a large percentage of our folks who have no conception of what agriculture is or how the farmer lives--yet these people will be dependent upon the products of the soil and the farmer's labor for their food, and to a large extent for their fibre.

America has come a long way since the first settlement was made by the Pilgrims. Down through the years we have had a continuing westward movement of settlers. At last we reached the Pacific Coast. We have now turned back and are trying to reclaim a few scattered acres in order to increase our productive agricultural land. We are doing this in order that future generations may be blessed with ample food to enjoy the high standard of diets and living which we in America have enjoyed down through the years.

The agriculture of the past was largely increased upon a horizontal basis. There can be no more of this. The future must hinge upon a perpendicular expansion. This in essence means a greater production per acre. This can and will be accomplished through the use of the many technological developments of recent years, as well as others not yet conceived.

During the past twelve years we have taken a million acres of land per year out of agriculture. This to a large extent has gone to take care of our vastly increasing population.

An observation often made is that the expanding masses of our cities and towns are literally moving back onto the farm. This is being done through the development of suburban areas which formerly were fields and farmsteads.

In the eight years since World War II, we have constructed a million homes per year. Most of these are single units, and on an average they are built four per acre. This means that a quarter of a million acres per year has been taken out of agriculture to provide new homes for urban people.

Someone recently asked a suburbanite if he thought he would live longer out in the rural area. He replied that he didn't know as he would--but at least he could park longer! The problem of providing parking space is a tremendous one. Even colleges are buying additional land for this purpose. One midwest agricultural college last summer urged students to leave automobiles at home. A recent report from that institution states that one freshman lad brought two cars and a motorcycle with him. Abe Martin recently summed up the situation pretty well with: "Lafe Bud's son has come home from college on account the parkin' wuz so poor!"

The shorter work week has brought an ever expanding demand for grounds on which to relax and play. This means more land converted to parks, lakes and recreational grounds. Our one-story schools which are mushrooming all over the horizon occupy large amounts of land. New turnpikes utilize 25 acres out of each mile which they cover.

Water made the news in 1954! Scarcely a day but what some water item was on the front page. Dust storms tended to emphasize the spring drouth. There was an acute shortage of water, with many municipalities issuing orders for curtailed usage. Then in June came the big floods. July brought a lack of water with exceedingly high temperatures and serious drouth. August was wet - September was dry as a bone - and October brought hurricanes, floods and fog.

As our population increases, we are becoming more aware of the importance of water. In the past we had relatively simple water problems and gave little thought to this life giving fluid.

The daily water utilization per person is over 200 gallons. It takes a heap of water for this modern way of living! With the tremendous increase in population it looks as though one of our big problems of the future will be that of an assured supply of water. The 86% of our population living in the cities can be of material help to the 14% on the farms by developing an understanding of the importance of water and doing their bit toward all types of water conservation.

* * *

WE WISH YOU THE FINEST KIND OF A CHRISTMAS! MAY YOU AND YOURS BE TOGETHER UNDER THE HAPPIEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, AND MAY YOU CHERISH AND BE THANKFUL FOR ALL OF THE BLESSINGS WHICH YOU HAVE ENJOYED DURING THE PAST YEAR. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR FRIENDS AND INSPIRES US TO A RENEWED FAITH IN EACH OTHER!

Sincerely,

Howard J. Gramlich

1. The first of these is the fact that the Government has not been able to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy. This is due to the fact that the Government has not been able to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy.

THE MAY 1961 EDITION OF THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (JAMA) CONTAINS A REPORT BY DR. J. H. HARRIS, JR., OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED THE 1961 ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AWARD FOR HIS RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF CHLORINE DIOXIDE ON THE LUNG TISSUE OF MAN.

1937

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SYSTEM
400 West Madison Street Chicago 6, Illinois

HOWARD J. GRAMLICH, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Volume 10 CROP REPORT
No. 1 THE GREEN AND THE GOLD February 1, 1955

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

MIDWINTER MUSINGS

As this February 1st issue of our GREEN AND GOLD Crop Report is being written, a beautiful white snow is falling, and during recent weeks the countryside has to a considerable extent been whitened with this moisture-laden source of next year's crops. In front of me is a bulletin entitled, "Land of Plenty." The two have inspired a few thoughts.

The Mississippi Valley is truly a land of plenty. While its fields are now dormant and covered with a blanket of pearly white snow, it will be but a short time until farmers will be out working the soil, planting seeds, and a few months thereafter harvesting the golden crops from its fertile soil. Few people realize that Australia and the United States are very similar in size. Australia has a population of 8 million while the United States has 164. The two countries are in somewhat the same latitudes. The difference in their development is to a large extent due to the Mississippi Valley, which is the bread basket of the world, in contrast to the vast desert which embodies the greater part of inland Australia. The Chicago and North Western Railroad serves a large part of the Mississippi Valley--in particular that portion which year after year comes up with a large volume of human food in the form of grain and animal products.

Daniel Webster, who was smart enough to write the dictionary (which is still considered the court of last resort in our search for knowledge) once saluted the Mississippi Valley as a worthless waste of no consequence to the United States, and advised Congress to refrain from contracting to purchase it.

Three years ago this month, there were tremendous deposits of snow over the entire Missouri River Basin. This, in essence, means the western half of the Mississippi Valley. In late March, a warm spell of several days duration melted the bulk of the snow and within a short time all streams were at flood stage. By mid-April the Missouri River at Blair, Nebraska, was 16 miles wide, and 20 miles south of that point was being syphoned through a bottleneck one-quarter mile in width. Vast areas in both Omaha, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, were in imminent danger of being completely submerged.

Such a disastrous flood will probably never occur again in the Missouri Valley. Men with far-seeing vision have set up a plan which should prove effective. The big Oahe Dam in process of construction at Pierre ... and the large one recently completed at Fort Randall ... together with the Gavins Point Dam -- all of which are in South Dakota -- and numerous others further upstream, are being used to harness floods. Following winters of heavy snowfall or during periods of June freshets, much water runs off of the land. The electricity produced from these dams will be used to make for happier and safer living in the homes throughout the valley areas.

Electricity has revolutionized farm living to a point where the home has all of the modern conveniences which are enjoyed by people living in urban areas. In addition, some of the water stored behind the dams will be used to supply supplemental irrigation in areas where mid-summer rainfall is at times insufficient.

About ten years ago we loaded six carloads of buffalo at Merriman, Nebraska. These were shipped to Michigan for fattening and slaughter. Before the white man took over, Indians inhabited that Sand-hills area and procured their livelihood by slaughtering buffalo and other wild animals with their bows and arrows. This is now a wonderful cattle country.

Recently while in Idaho at a point some 200 miles west of Lander, Wyoming, a polished cross section of a 2000 year old desert juniper tree was noted in the office of the District Geological Engineer. The rings of growth were marked by 100-year periods. During wet centuries this tree had increased in diameter at the rate of 2 inches, while during dry centuries the growth had been at the rate of one inch. The section was rather irregular in shape due to the constant attack of sand-laden southwest winds which had snarled the exposed side of the tree. When one sees a section of a tree which has survived hardships for this period of time he cannot help but be imbued with humility. After all, the life span of man is but a flyspeck on the sands of time.

1954 is starting out with an epidemic of 50-year celebrations. Such a span just about represents a lifetime of the average mature person. Many of the oldsters who are planning these 50-year celebrations were young folks in their teens at the outset of the period. Indicative of the vast growth in population of the United States is the doubling which has occurred in that comparatively short span of time--from 82 million to the present 164 million.

In this report we have referred several times to man's short period of activity in connection with the world's history. Possibly the following paragraph will partially justify our having placed a little too much emphasis on this philosophy.

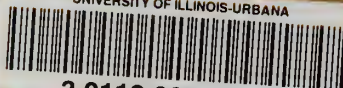
"Father Time" has crept up on the chap who during the past decade has put out THE GREEN AND THE GOLD. He will be "turned out to pasture" on February 1st and younger shoulders will carry the burdens forward. M. R. W. A. Kluender, who for the past few years served as Forestry and Agricultural Agent, and who now has the title of Director of Agricultural and Resource Development, will be the new maestro of Agricultural activities of the Chicago and North Western Railroad.

I know that Mr. Kluender and his able assistants will keep the GREEN AND GOLD coming forward, and that you will receive prompt and dependable information relative to the progress of crops and agricultural conditions throughout the Chicago and North Western territory.

It has been a pleasure to prepare these reports for our C&NW Railroad friends, and it has been a grand privilege to have been affiliated with the railroad and to have worked in cooperation with its management.

A D I O S !

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